

Junblatt predicts intensified violence

KUWAIT (AP) — Lebanon's opposition leader Walid Junblatt was quoted here Friday as holding President Amin Gemayel responsible for the "deadend" reached at the second round of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in Lausanne, Switzerland, and predicting Lebanon was going to witness an unprecedented wave of fighting. "Everything was proceeding on the correct path in Lausanne when suddenly Amin Gemayel stood up and declared that under no circumstances would he allow limitation of the prerogatives and privileges of the president and so the conference reached a deadend," Mr. Junblatt told Al Qabas newspaper in an interview conducted in London. "The Lebanese president forfeited a chance in Lausanne to calm the wounds of his country and uphold its unity because sectarian interests with the leaders of the Lebanese Front had the upper hand over national interests," Mr. Junblatt said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جامعة الاردن
مكتبة

Gemayel offers 'security' talks

BEIRUT (AP) — President Amin Gemayel offered in an interview published Friday to try to reach new "security" arrangements with Israel. "This issue could be discussed by specialized commissions under international sponsorship in order to guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty over its territory and prevent infiltration into Israel's northern border," Mr. Gemayel told the Paris-based Lebanese magazine Al Moustakbal. Mr. Gemayel said his government would seek to increase the United Nations forces in southern Lebanon to help the Lebanese army re-establish authority over the area after Israel's withdrawal. Earlier this month Mr. Gemayel scrapped a troop withdrawal agreement that Lebanon reached with Israel last May. The cancellation came under pressure from the Syrian-backed Lebanese opposition. Mr. Gemayel said in the interview that he was assured by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad during his recent visit to Damascus that Syria had no "territorial ambitions" in Lebanon.

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Spanish foreign minister due April 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran is expected in Amman April 3 on a three-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit, the minister will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on current Middle East affairs and ways to promote Jordanian-Spanish relations.

Grenade thrown at Israeli patrol

SIDON (R) — Commandos threw a hand grenade at an Israeli patrol passing along the main street of the South Lebanese port of Sidon Friday but there were no casualties, eyewitnesses said. Israeli troops fired warning shots in the air, sealed off the area and began searching buildings, they said. Five people were detained for questioning but were later released, the eyewitnesses added.

Soviets to build Iraqi nuclear plant

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has agreed to build Iraq's first nuclear power plant, the Washington Post reported Friday. In a dispatch from Baghdad, the Post quoted Iraqi officials as saying a contract for the first stage of a nuclear power project for electricity purposes was signed this month.

Beirut gunmen rob Italian diplomat

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen seized the car and money of Italian diplomat Raffaele de Lutio Wednesday night, an official at the Italian embassy said. Mr. De Lutio, first commercial secretary, was driving his Fiat in west Beirut accompanied by a Lebanese friend when he noticed he was being followed by a car with three gunmen. The trailing car forced him to pull over, the officials said. He and his friend were driven to the southern edge of Beirut, where the gunmen, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles, took the Fiat and 2,000 Lebanese pounds (\$350) before leaving them there.

Saboteurs blow up Punjab railway track

NEW DELHI (R) — Saboteurs blew up a railway line in the troubled north Indian state of Punjab Friday as security forces continued their crackdown on militant Sikhs, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The news agency said hundreds of passengers on three trains escaped injury when the blast, which carried away several inches of track, failed to derail the trains shortly after midnight Thursday.

Three Britons detained in Libya

LONDON (R) — Three British businessmen were detained in Libya in the past week but the arrests were not believed to be linked with Britain's recent arrest and expulsion of Libyans, the Foreign Office said Friday. Officials declined to name the three men but said one had already been released. The two still in jail were believed to be facing charges involving drunken driving and fraud.

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Murabitoun-PSP flare-up develops into fierce battles

BEIRUT (R) — The small Murabitoun militia, made up of mostly Sunni Muslims, fought heavy battles with the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) forces Friday to regain control of its headquarters in south Beirut after losing it to the PSP in a surprise raid Thursday.

Police said at least 18 people, including three civilians, had died in the fighting.

A lieutenant with the Lebanese Internal Security Forces (ISF) said from a position one kilometre away that neither side in the latest fighting had won full control of the area.

After losing all its posts to the PSP Thursday, the pro-Libyan Murabitoun launched a counter-attack early Friday morning and the fighting raged throughout the day, eyewitnesses and police said.

The noise of exploding rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire echoed around the concrete Gamal Abdul Nasser Mosque, which until Thursday was at the core of Murabitoun territory.

Smoke rose from the battle zone, and the normally crowded Corniche Mazraa, the boulevard at the heart of the fighting, was deserted.

On Thursday night, the PSP had turned the mosque and the nearby headquarters over to the ISF, which dispatched eight of its men

to control it, the security forces officer said.

On Friday morning, he said, an estimated 200 Murabitoun fighters attacked the PSP positions nearby, trapping the ISF in the middle.

Several blocks from the fighting, civilians sympathetic to the Murabitoun said it had retaken the mosque and the headquarters, but the PSP "Voice of the Mountain" radio said the PSP had not lost any positions.

The Murabitoun "Voice of Arab Lebanon," whose transmission antenna is right behind the mosque, did not broadcast.

Civilians were not able to cross between mainly Muslim west Beirut and mostly the Christian east.

The museum crossing-point, the only route across the divided city, is only 400 metres east of the mosque and stayed closed to traffic.

Together with the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal, the PSP seized control of west Beirut from the army last month. The Murabitoun, powerful until the 1982 Israeli invasion, re-appeared on

the streets after 17 months underground.

A PSP spokesman said Thursday it was forced to suppress the Murabitoun because it failed to observe ceasefires with east Beirut and generally undermined security in the western sector. Amal said it was not involved in the clashes.

West Beirut politicians, militia officers and religious leaders met Friday afternoon at the home of Mufti Hassan Khaled, spiritual head of the Sunni community, in an attempt to end the fighting. PSP radio said.

Beirut Radio said the mufti called for an end to grudges and for handing over security to the ISF. Former Premier Saeb Salam, a Sunni, condemned political violence.

In the morning, Murabitoun members asked shopkeepers to close for the day in protest against the PSP. Falangist radio said the militia also distributed leaflets accusing the PSP of acting in Israel's interests.

PSP fighters later toured the streets with loudspeakers telling the shops to stay open. Most shops stayed shut, apparently because of the tense atmosphere.

Limited clashes between the rival militias were also reported in other areas of west Beirut. Militiamen also battled the army in the centre of the city and in the hills to the east, radios and militiamen said.

Several European states 'ready to consider' arms for Jordan

By Salameh B. McNeill
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to drop the planned sale of anti-aircraft Stinger missiles to Jordan and Saudi Arabia has left Washington open to fresh Arab charges of pro-Israeli bias and several Western countries said they would consider selling arms to the Kingdom.

The Jordanian government announced Wednesday that it deeply regretted the U.S. decision which it regarded as detrimental to Jordan's defence capability. There has been no reaction from Saudi Arabia yet. Middle East newspapers said Thursday and Friday that the U.S. decision undermined accusations by His Majesty King Hussein that American policy in the region was biased in favour of Israel and marked a surrender by President Reagan to pressure from the Jewish lobby at Capitol Hill.

Announcing the U.S. decision Wednesday, White House spokesman Larry Speakes gave no reason for Mr. Reagan's move to drop the proposed sale of 1,613 shoulder-held Stinger missiles to Jordan and 1,400 of the same type to Saudi Arabia. The proposal had been strongly criticised by the U.S. Congress, by Israel and by

American Jewish groups.

King Hussein said in recent interviews with the New York Times and American television networks that U.S. aid to Israel enables it to sustain its illegal construction of settlements in occupied Arab territories, creating new obstacles in constructive moves for Middle East peace.

The King's comments, which represented a strong reflection of a position widely held by Arab states, sent shock waves through Washington. The King said last Sunday that Jordan would feel free to turn to any other country, including the Soviet Union, for military aid if Congress blocked the Stinger sale.

West European countries, most notably France, Britain, West Germany and Italy, have made steady inroads into America's huge arms market in the Middle East.

Italian officials in Amman told the Jordan Times that in case Jordan sought weapons from Italy, their government would consider the request.

"But," one official said, "it might depend on the type of weapon, how and when and other variables."

A British embassy official told the Jordan Times that a request by the Jordanian government for mil-

itary assistance from Britain would be "seriously considered," while a French diplomat said "such a request would be studied carefully."

Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez del Valle told the Jordan Times that discussions are under way to sell Jordan Spanish-manufactured C-101 military training airplanes and that in February, a Jordanian Armed Forces delegation visited Spain for that purpose. Spain is also in the process of providing Jordan with telecommunications systems and military trucks, the ambassador said.

Earlier this month, Chinese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Defei, accompanying Chinese President Li Xianxian on a six-day state visit to Jordan, said China is ready to provide Jordan whatever Chinese arms the Kingdom needs.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama told the Jordan Times that Japan would "never export weapons to any country in the world as the Japanese constitution does not allow such sales." Japan has maintained its impartiality towards the Iran-Iraq war, the envoy pointed out.

Gulf press criticises Reagan's decision, page 2

Israeli parliament votes for early polls

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli parliament voted Thursday to dissolve itself and hold early general elections.

Elections were originally scheduled for November, 1985.

The ballot, 61-58 in the 120-seat house, was introduced by members of the opposition Labour alignment and Tami, a three-member partner in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing coalition. It gained two more coalition votes.

Thursday's vote was a pre-

liminary reading and the bill will go through committee and three more readings during which the exact date of the poll will be decided. Labour and Tami favour a May date but the government wants it put off to the autumn.

Tami, which holds the social affairs portfolio and gains its support mainly from poor Jews who immigrated from Arab countries, threw Israeli politics into turmoil this week by announcing its intention to support the early poll.

It said it had lost confidence in

the government's handling of the inflation-ridden economy.

The debate had been delayed for five hours to allow a three-man parliamentary delegation returning from Argentina to arrive in time for the vote.

But the delay proved useless to the government with the defection of Mordechai Ben-Porat, an independent who quit his ministerial post in Mr. Shamir's cabinet in January, saying the government was incapable of functioning.

'Islamic Jihad' threatens MNF countries

CAIRO (AP) — The Cairo embassies of some Western countries involved in Lebanon have received threatening letters from an extremist organisation which claimed responsibility for a string of bombings in Lebanon and Kuwait during the past year, Italian embassy sources said Friday.

The sources, who declined to be named, said the letters were received by the Italian, British and French embassies and were signed "Islamic Jihad".

They said the letters threatened

revenge against embassy personnel and their families unless their countries stopped their "imperialistic" policies in Lebanon.

A U.S. embassy spokesman, asked whether his embassy had received such letters, said: "Not to my knowledge, but I cannot be absolutely sure because such things would be handled by our security people."

Reuters adds from Jakarta, Indonesia: A radical Islamic group has threatened to kill American,

U.S. deeds in Mideast contradict American principles, Queen says

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — American practices in the Middle East totally contradict the principles of freedom and personal liberties on which the U.S. Constitution rests, Her Majesty Queen Noor said Friday.

Queen Noor, addressing the Arab-American Affairs Council in Chicago, pointed out several examples of the contradictions in the U.S. principles and actions. She cited several examples of the "inconsistencies and moral frailty" of the U.S. policy in the Middle East.

She pointed out that:

— The U.S. professes to promote

peace in the Middle East, but it refuses to talk with the chosen representatives of the Palestinian people.

— While the U.S. recognises Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories as an obstacle to peace efforts, it also helps Israel financially to build more settlements.

— The U.S. urges the Arabs to show moderation and boldness, the American aid to Israel is characterised by immorality.

— While the U.S. speaks of peace in the Middle East, it is also financing the "Israeli militarism that appears not to be constrained either by international law or by American standards of right and

wrong".

— The U.S. says that it values Arab moderation, but it pursues in its policy of providing unconditional support for Israel; and

— While the U.S. urges the Arabs to enter into peace negotiations with Israel without any preconditions, the American policy continues to reflect many of Israel's long-standing preconditions.

The Queen also assailed the double standards of the U.S. as reflected in its refusal to apply the principle of self-determination to the Palestinians.

Full text of the Queen's speech appears on page 4

Pakistan celebrates national day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistan Friday celebrated the 44th anniversary of its national day.

On the occasion His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes to President Zia Ul Haq wishing the Pakistani people further success, prosperity and progress.

Pakistani ambassador in Jordan and Begum Ehsan Rashid hosted a reception at the Intercontinental Hotel Friday evening to mark the occasion.

Since the establishment of the Republic of Pakistan in 1947 the country has played significant roles in promoting Islamic and Arab causes.

Tunis meeting to plan action against Iran

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — A meeting of seven Arab foreign ministers scheduled to be held in Tunis next week is expected to discuss "practical measures" against Iran in efforts to put an end to the 42-month-old Gulf war, according to Arab diplomats here.

The diplomats told the Jordan Times that the measures under consideration focus on five points:

— Increasing Arab financial and political support for Iraq;

— Adopting political and economic action against Tehran, including a possible severance of all relations with the Iranian regime;

— Imposing sanctions against Arab countries supporting Iran in the war;

— Urging Western countries which deal with Iran to confine

their relations with Tehran strictly to areas not related to war, and

— Campaigning in the American and European arenas in co-ordination with countries that are effectively involved in efforts to end the war.

Iraq believes that the Gulf war is no more an Iran-Iraq war but an Iranian-Arab war, and insists that all Arab countries to bear their national responsibilities as members of the one Arab Nation and demands a decisive Arab stand towards the issue, the diplomats told the Jordan Times.

Arab sources said Iraq is not very satisfied with the position adopted by some Arab countries towards the issue during a recent meeting in Baghdad of foreign ministers and top diplomats of 19 members of the Arab League, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.).

The meeting, which was held in response to an urgent call by Iraq to discuss the war, formed the seven-member committee, due to meet in Tunis next week. It includes the foreign ministers of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, North Yemen, Iraq and Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi and a representative of the P.L.O.

Meanwhile, a new Iranian offensive, which was supposed to be launched Thursday, has been delayed, according to well-informed sources in the Iraqi capital. The sources interpret the delay as a tactical Iranian move to ensure that the Arab measures to be adopted at Tunis would not be "so severe."

The sources say they have drawn their conclusion from press reports that Tehran has asked Algeria to continue its mediation efforts. The sources add that the

recent set-backs Iranian troops suffered in renewed fighting east of the Iraqi port of Basra could also be a factor in the Iranian change of plans.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Watan reported Friday that Algeria has drawn up a 10-point plan to end the Gulf war. The usually reliable newspaper indicated that the initial Iranian reaction to the plan has been positive and the success of the plan depended upon Syrian contacts with Iran.

The plan was taken by Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammad Taleb Al Ibrahim during his visit last week to Damascus. "Urging the Syrian officials to exert special efforts to convince Iraq to accept it," Al Watan said.

Syria and Libya, which support Persian Iran in its war against Arab Iraq, did not attend the foreign ministers meeting in Baghdad.

OLYMPIC'S GREECE



A WISE CHOICE

TIME TABLE

EFF. 25TH OF MARCH

DAY	DEPART AMMAN	ARRIVE ATHENS
Monday	08:30	12:10
Tuesday	08:30	12:10
Wednesday	08:30	12:10
Thursday	08:30	12:10
Friday	08:30	12:10
Saturday	08:30	12:10

DAY	ATHENS - AMMAN	ARRIVE AMMAN
Tuesday	18:45	20:30
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Starting from June 18, direct flights every Monday morning Amman-Rhodes, and Rhodes-Amman every Sunday.

For further information contact on G.S.A.

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U.K. quits Lebanon role

LONDON (R) — Britain Thursday announced it was ending its limited role in Lebanon, bringing some 115 troops already evacuated from Beirut to a ship offshore.

The move follows the breakdown in Switzerland earlier this week of a peace conference of the warring Lebanese factions. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told parliament he saw no possibility of the British contingent, an armoured car unit, being used again in Beirut. He said Britain consulted the Lebanese government and had named its partners in the UN-National Force — the United States, France and Italy — of decision. The contingent was withdrawn from Beirut on Feb. 8 and taken

aboard the British Navy auxiliary ship, Reliant, a container vessel converted to a helicopter carrier. The ship has remained on standby at sea between Lebanon and Cyprus. The initial pullout coincided with the withdrawal of 1,600 U.S. Marines from Beirut to the safety of warships offshore. Sir Geoffrey, in his first foreign policy speech to parliament this year, said Britain was right to take part in the force because it gave the Lebanese government a breathing space. "We hoped that it would prove

enough to enable it to make necessary reforms," he said. "Unfortunately that is not how things turned out."

The foreign secretary said it was a real disappointment that the Lebanese leaders failed to forge a new national consensus at the Lausanne peace conference.

He said the United Nations should become more involved in peace-keeping in Lebanon.

He regretted the Soviet Union last month vetoed the Security Council acting to strengthen the U.N. observer force in Beirut but said: "I do not think we should take this as the last word."

He said that as a first step the U.N. could be encouraged to do more with the personnel already on the spot.

AU backs Egypt's call for summit delay

NIS (R) — Peter Onu, interim secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Thursday backed an Egyptian proposal to postpone the African summit until the issue of control over the West Sahara is resolved. The OAU, deeply split over the conflict between Morocco and the Polisario guerrillas fighting for independence of the territory, was set to hold its next summit in Dakar, Guinea, in May or June. Mr. Onu said no date had yet been fixed.

He said a suggestion Wednesday by the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, to put off the meeting until the Sahara issue is settled, was a "positive step". Onu replied: "I believe that some of the points he made make sense. We should make a real attempt to prepare the ground to ensure that the summit, when it meets eventually in Conakry, is a success."

Mr. Onu was speaking at a joint news conference in Tunis with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi to announce preparations for an Afro-Arab summit meeting in 1985. The only previous summit meeting of member states of both the Arab League and the OAU was held in Cairo in March 1977. Mr. Onu said officials of the two organisations would meet in Addis Ababa next month to pave the way for a joint ministerial meeting in May to prepare for the Afro-Arab summit. Arrangements for the Afro-Arab summit are being announced at a time when both organisations are facing difficulties in convening their own summits.

The OAU is wrestling with the Western Sahara issue, which aborted a 1982 summit, while the 1983 Arab summit scheduled for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, failed to take place due to inter-Arab differences.

Mr. Klibi dismissed a suggestion the planned Afro-Arab summit might remove some of the obstacles preventing separate regional summits, saying: "I am not so pessimistic as to believe that the (OAU and Arab League) summits will not be held before 1985."

Both officials said efforts were being made to resolve outstanding problems, but neither revealed any progress.

There was no independent confirmation of the claims. The spokesman said the area taken by the guerrillas stretched 70 kilometres inland from Ouarzazat on the northern tip of Eritrea, to Karora on the Sudan border and 100 kilometres southwards to Algen and the Red Sea port of Marsa Takla.

All Soviet military advisers had been withdrawn from the north-eastern front since four were killed in a rebel attack one month ago, he said.

A Jordanian government spokesman said Wednesday night the decision would be detrimental to Jordan's defence capability, but the King said last week he would look to other countries for military aid if Congress rejected the sale.

to Jordan and 1,400 to Saudi Arabia, which had been strongly criticised by the U.S. Congress, Israeli and American Jewish groups. It gave no explanation of the move, but U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan acted because of the strong congressional opposition.

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak conferred Thursday with U.S. Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who was on a 24-hour visit to Egypt (AP wirephoto)

Rumsfeld in Israel for talks with Shamir

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. Special Middle East Envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Israel Friday for talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Mr. Rumsfeld, who flew from Egypt where he conferred with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan, declined to talk to reporters.

Mr. Ali said in Cairo Thursday Mr. Mubarak told Mr. Rumsfeld, Jordan and Saudi Arabia needed the anti-aircraft missiles which Washington has decided not to sell to the two countries.

Mr. Rumsfeld, who arrived on Wednesday night, said his meeting with Mr. Mubarak was interesting but declined further comment. Mr. Ali said the talks covered the overall Middle East situation, the Gulf war, Lebanon and Sudan, as well as moves in the United States to have the U.S. embassy in Israel transferred from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mr. Mubarak has warned Washington that moving the embassy would have disastrous effects on U.S. interests in the Arab and Muslim worlds and would destroy the Middle East peace process.

Washington said Wednesday that President Reagan had dropped plans to sell the advanced Stinger missiles to the two Arab kingdoms.

Dr. Abdul Rahim Al Zamil, Saudi Arabia's deputy minister of commerce, referring to the greater awareness by American legislators to the importance of Arab-American concerns.

He said that Arab-Americans have had an increasing voice in American politics since 1973, but last year marked the first time they have attempted to co-ordinate their political efforts through the council of presidents of Arab-American organisations.

Mr. Zamil encouraged the ADC to counter stereo-typing of Arabs in the U.S. media or in films. "By minimising these negative images you are improving the U.S.-Arab relations and preparing the ground... for better co-operation."

The ADC, in a position paper, emphasised that the new and growing participation of Arab-Americans has a special meaning in this election year. "The continuing conflict in the Middle East is, quite simply, the most serious foreign policy issue facing the U.S.," the paper stated.

The paper, which bears the same title as the convention: "Decision '84: A plan for Arab-American Political Involvement," says the Middle East conflict is dangerous and costly for the United States and politically harmful to America.

"For all these reasons, America desperately needs an evenhanded Middle East policy," the paper says. "And to get that, America needs a national debate. This year, there can be that debate. And

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Mr. Mubarak has warned Washington that moving the embassy would have disastrous effects on U.S. interests in the Arab and Muslim worlds and would destroy the Middle East peace process.

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He said that Arab-Americans have had an increasing voice in American politics since 1973, but last year marked the first time they have attempted to co-ordinate their political efforts through the council of presidents of Arab-American organisations.

Mr. Zamil encouraged the ADC to counter stereo-typing of Arabs in the U.S. media or in films. "By minimising these negative images you are improving the U.S.-Arab relations and preparing the ground... for better co-operation."

The ADC, in a position paper, emphasised that the new and growing participation of Arab-Americans has a special meaning in this election year. "The continuing conflict in the Middle East is, quite simply, the most serious foreign policy issue facing the U.S.," the paper stated.

The paper, which bears the same title as the convention: "Decision '84: A plan for Arab-American Political Involvement," says the Middle East conflict is dangerous and costly for the United States and politically harmful to America.

"For all these reasons, America desperately needs an evenhanded Middle East policy," the paper says. "And to get that, America needs a national debate. This year, there can be that debate. And

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Mr. Rumsfeld, who flew from Egypt where he conferred with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan, declined to talk to reporters.

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Turkey arrests 4 German Greens parliamentarians

ANKARA (R) — Seven members of the West German Greens Party, including four members of the Bundestag (parliament), were arrested by Turkish police in Ankara Friday for staging a public demonstration to protest at human rights abuse, according to reporters at the scene.

They said at least one foreign journalist was also detained during the demonstration at a public park in central Ankara.

A spokesman for the security police headquarters in Ankara said they were being held at the centre for questioning. He declined to give any more details.

Reporters at the scene said the seven "Greens" members were handcuffed by police and driven away after staging a demonstration in a public park at which they unfurled Turkish-language banners and handed out leaflets protesting against human rights abuses in Turkey.

The reporters said several foreign journalists covering the demonstration were also detained. Foreign Ministry officials said the ministry was inquiring into the incident after being informed of it by the West German embassy in Ankara. They said they understood at least four journalists were among those arrested.

Turkish newspaper staff said military authorities had instructed local media not to publish the story.

There was no mention of the

incident on state radio or the semi-official Anatolian News Agency.

Reporters at the demonstration said the seven Greens gave their names as Uli Fischer, Willi Hoss, Gabriele Pottstast and Milan Horoccek. All full or alternate members of the West German parliament, and Rudolf Bahro, Kalle Winkler and Lukas Beckmann.

They said the detained journalists included Corine Taor, correspondent for the French newspaper Liberation, Ekaterina Kistamado, correspondent for the Athens News Agency, Antonio Cano, correspondent of the Spanish paper El Pais, and Armagan Anar, a local reporter for the French News Agency AFP.

There were unconfirmed reports that a German television crew was also detained. The incident occurred as a legitimate meeting held by a political party campaigning for Sunday's local elections was breaking up.

The seven Greens members unfurled banners in Turkish calling for respect for human rights "in East and West for Kurds and Turks."

One banner had the names of three Turkish prisons where up to a dozen inmates are reported to have died on hunger strikes in recent weeks.

The banner read "Mamak, Diyarbakir, Metris: There must be democracy with torture and executions," the reporters said.

Libyan rebels claim major victories

IS (R) — Eritrean guerrillas Thursday they had driven all Libyan military forces from a 20-square kilometre area in the Red Sea coast since launching a major attack on Monday, statement from the Paris office of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said. It said that the Eritrean troops had killed, wounded and captured rebels drove an infantry on a mechanised brigade, tank battalions, four heavy

artillery battalions and six anti-aircraft companies from the area, the EPLF said.

A spokesman said precise casualty figures were not immediately available, but the military gains were unprecedented for the guerrillas in their 22-year fight for the independence of Eritrea.

He said rebel forces were still pursuing Ethiopian soldiers, some of whom fled to Sudan. An Ethiopian attempt to provide air cover during the retreat failed due to heavy fog.

There was no independent confirmation of the claims. The spokesman said the area taken by the guerrillas stretched 70 kilometres inland from Ouarzazat on the northern tip of Eritrea, to Karora on the Sudan border and 100 kilometres southwards to Algen and the Red Sea port of Marsa Takla.

All Soviet military advisers had been withdrawn from the north-eastern front since four were killed in a rebel attack one month ago, he said.

A Jordanian government spokesman said Wednesday night the decision would be detrimental to Jordan's defence capability, but the King said last week he would look to other countries for military aid if Congress rejected the sale.

to Jordan and 1,400 to Saudi Arabia, which had been strongly criticised by the U.S. Congress, Israeli and American Jewish groups. It gave no explanation of the move, but U.S. officials said Mr. Reagan acted because of the strong congressional opposition.

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He said a suggestion Wednesday by the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Ghali, to put off the meeting until the Sahara issue is settled, was a "positive step". Onu replied: "I believe that some of the points he made make sense. We should make a real attempt to prepare the ground to ensure that the summit, when it meets eventually in Conakry, is a success."

Mr. Onu was speaking at a joint news conference in Tunis with Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi to announce preparations for an Afro-Arab summit meeting in 1985. The only previous summit meeting of member states of both the Arab League and the OAU was held in Cairo in March 1977. Mr. Onu said officials of the two organisations would meet in Addis Ababa next month to pave the way for a joint ministerial meeting in May to prepare for the Afro-Arab summit. Arrangements for the Afro-Arab summit are being announced at a time when both organisations are facing difficulties in convening their own summits.

The OAU is wrestling with the Western Sahara issue, which aborted a 1982 summit, while the 1983 Arab summit scheduled for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, failed to take place due to inter-Arab differences.

Mr. Klibi dismissed a suggestion the planned Afro-Arab summit might remove some of the obstacles preventing separate regional summits, saying: "I am not so pessimistic as to believe that the (OAU and Arab League) summits will not be held before 1985."

Both officials said efforts were being made to resolve outstanding problems, but neither revealed any progress.

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ADC launches drive to gain political strength in U.S.

WASHINGTON (USIP) — The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has committed itself to use its grassroots strength to give Arab-Americans a greater voice in U.S. politics and to encourage debate of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East.

The ADC held its third annual convention here March 16 through 18 and attracted the largest number of participants ever. About 2,000 people turned out for a highlight of the conference, the address by presidential candidate Jesse Jackson at the March 18 breakfast.

Other prominent participants included George McGovern, who had just dropped out of the presidential race; two Palestinian mayors, Fathi Qawasinih, the exiled mayor of Hebron, and Tawfiq Zayad, the mayor of Nazareth and a member of the Knesset; officials from Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and the Arab League; and two present and two former U.S. congressmen.

A wide variety of subjects were discussed during the three-day convention, but the one recurring theme was the necessity of becoming more politically active, especially at the local levels.

Clovis Maksud, permanent U.N. observer for the League of Arab States, told the gathering: "It is your responsibility as Arab-Americans to act as a bridge" between the Arab states and the U.S. government.

"There is a new politics," said

Dr. Abdul Rahim Al Zamil, Saudi Arabia's deputy minister of commerce, referring to the greater awareness by American legislators to the importance of Arab-American concerns.

He said that Arab-Americans have had an increasing voice in American politics since 1973, but last year marked the first time they have attempted to co-ordinate their political efforts through the council of presidents of Arab-American organisations.

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The paper, which bears the same title as the convention: "Decision '84: A plan for Arab-American Political Involvement," says the Middle East conflict is dangerous

Five states included in latest phosphates push

AMMAN (Petra) — Four delegations from the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) leave Amman this week to a number of countries with a view to promoting the sale of Jordanian phosphates to them.

A JPMC delegation leaves Amman Saturday to India to hold talks on contracts for exporting phosphates to India both for this year and for the next year. Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Another delegation will leave for Pakistan Saturday to hold negotiations on the same subject, while a third delegation leaves for Holland Sunday and will sign contracts for selling phosphates to them, Petra added.

A fourth delegation, Petra further added, is due to leave here for Japan and South Korea to sign contracts with the authorities there for supplying them with Jordanian phosphates.

Contract signed

Earlier Thursday, JPMC signed a contract to export 900,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphates to Romania.

Signing this contract for the JPMC was its Director-General Wasef Azar, who headed Jordan's delegation to Romania, where the contract was signed with a specialised Romanian firm.

Thirty firms prequalify for major road projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 30 local and foreign companies have prequalified for construction and civil engineering work on four road building projects in Amman which is expected to be worth JD 5 million, according to a report in Al Rai daily Arabic newspaper.

It said that 10 foreign companies and 20 local ones will be able to bid once a tender for the projects is announced sometime in May.

Work on the projects to build interchanges at the Ministry of Interior Circle, Sports City crossroads, the Third Circle in Jabal Amman and Al Nasha junction on

the road to Al Mahatta, to the east of Amman, is expected to start in September, the report said.

It said that all the projects will be completed in two years. During this time, traffic will be diverted but other services will not be affected.

Also, according to the paper, 30 local companies have qualified to bid for a contract to implement a project to develop the centre of Amman.

A tender for the project, which is expected to cost JD 2 million, will be announced in the coming month and work on its implementation will start in August, the paper said.



Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament (centre) and members of the Upper and Lower Houses and the parliamentary secretariat after they arrived

back from the Afro-Arab parliamentary conference in Tunis (Petra photo)

Police trap international drug smuggling gang

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian police have foiled an attempt by a group of drug traffickers to smuggle hashish and heroin to a number of Arab and foreign countries.

A police spokesman told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the smugglers were apprehended and 2.5 kilograms of hashish and an unspecified amount of heroin were confiscated.

He said that the anti-narcotics squad had previous knowledge of the group's intentions and also

about the drugs which had entered the country.

The group members were placed under surveillance until they attempted to move parts of their consignment to Egypt, Belgium, West Germany and Australia to market their drugs. It was at this point that they were arrested, the spokesman added.

He added that the success of the operation was due to close co-operation with police authorities in the four countries concerned.

Faisali draws with Wihdat

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Premier Division football league exhibition match between Al Faisali Football Club and Al Wihdat Football Club was played Thursday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein at the Sport City Stadium in front of a 15,000 crowd.

At the end of the match, the King presented the league championship trophy and the gold medals to champions Al Faisali who won this year's premier division league championship.

The King also presented silver medals to the runners-up Al Wihdat.

Attending the match, which ended in a goalless draw, were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat.



His Majesty King Hussein Thursday presents the Premier Division football league trophy to the cap-

tain of Al Faisali Football Club, Ibrahim Mustafa (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italian architecture show to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of contemporary Italian Architecture from 1962 to 1982 will open at the University of Jordan Saturday. The exhibition, which is being organised by the Italian Embassy in co-operation with the Faculty of Architecture and Technology at the University of Jordan, will last until March 29.

Ambassadors to come back home

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to transfer Musa Al Keilani, Suhail Al Tal, Hussein Mamami and Khaled Al Madadha, who are serving as Jordanian Ambassadors to Sudan, Spain, Syria and Greece respectively, back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Amman.

FAO course to begin in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Agriculture will participate in two training courses to be held in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad under the supervision of the regional animal health project of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The first, scheduled to start on May 15, will be a three-week training course on animal health while the second, scheduled to start on April 4, will be a two-week course on maintenance of veterinary equipment.

WANTED

Regional office in Amman is seeking, assistant/driver. Applicant must be fluent in Arabic/English, must have valid Jordanian driving licence. Experience in assisting office running is required, with knowledge of government and ministerial procedures.

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Hassan, Basma visit new wing of National Gallery

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Basma have visited the Jordanian National Gallery for Fine Arts where they saw collections of the works of contemporary Islamic artists as well as oriental artists.

They also visited the new wing of the museum which was opened recently by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Their Highnesses expressed their admiration for the efforts of the Royal Society of Fine Arts in support of the Jordanian and Arab World.

Prince Hassan then signed the gallery's register in which he wrote how impressed he was by the society's pilot work "in displaying the importance of our antiquities and how such art can contribute to promoting and developing people's interest in the origins of the art movement in the world."

Prince Hassan and Princess Basma were received by President of the Royal Society for Fine Arts Princess Wijdan Ali and the director of the Jordan National Gallery for Fine Arts, Mr. Suhail Bisharat.

WANTED

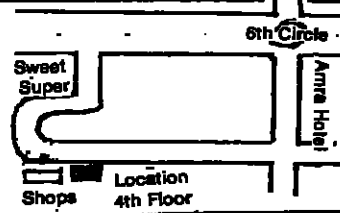
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Joint university proposed to boost links

Afro-Arab conference calls for common market

AMMAN (Petra) — An Afro-Arab parliamentary conference, which ended in Tunis on March 14, has called for the establishment of an Afro-Arab common market to organise the exchange of trade and encourage investments and economic co-operation between the two regions, according to Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed who took part in the conference.

Mr. Fayed, who returned to Amman Thursday evening, said that the conference also recommended that an Afro-Arab university be established to promote bilateral co-operation in technological and scientific affairs.

Delegates from 28 Arab and African nations discussed, at their four-day conference, subjects of concern to Arab and African countries' parliamentary issues and co-operation among African and Arab states in all fields, particularly in the economy and trade, Mr. Fayed said.

that, Mr. Fayed said, Arab and African countries extend full support and assistance to the Palestinians in their endeavours to recover their rights in their homeland.

The delegates also called for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and an end to the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Fayed said.

The conference, he added, voiced its support for Iraq in trying to defend its territory and called on both sides to enter into negotiations to end the conflict in peace.

Mr. Fayed was accompanied by a number of members of the Lower and Upper House of parliament and other officials from both houses.

Team departs to market cement in 5 Arab states

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's exports of cement to five Arab states will figure prominently in talks between Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism Jawad Al Anani and officials from the five countries during the minister's tour which started Thursday.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism said that Dr. Anani, who left for San'aa on the first leg of the tour, will visit Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and South and North Yemen to discuss ways of promoting Jordan's trade with them including cement exports.

Agreements initiated

At least two agreements will be initiated during Dr. Anani's tour, one with North Yemen and the other with Ethiopia, the spokesman said.

In a statement, made prior to his departure, Dr. Anani said that, during his tour, he will discuss the prospect of supplying these countries with Jordanian engineers and doctors.

Interior decisions discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Implementation of the decisions adopted at the December session of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, which was held in Baghdad, was discussed here Thursday during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and the Arab Interior Ministers Council secretary-general Akram Naha'at Ibrahim, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The main decision of the council was to transfer the jurisdiction of the International Arab Bureau for Narcotics in Amman, the International Arab Bureau for the Prevention of Crime in Baghdad and the International Arab Bureau of Criminal Police in Damascus from the International Arab Organisation for Social Defence against Crime to the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

Dr. Ibrahim said his visit to Jordan is part of a tour which will take him to Saudi Arabia.

Tal briefed by UNESCO head on Paris office fire

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the 22nd session of the general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Dr. Sa'id Al Tal, has said that preliminary investigations of the fire that recently engulfed the UNESCO headquarters in Paris indicate that the arson was both pre-

meditated and well planned. This act, Dr. Tal said, was aimed at attacking the UNESCO mission, its objectives and its continuous endeavours to strengthen the principles of justice and equality and to spread understanding, knowledge and culture amongst nations.

Dr. Tal said that he was briefed on the circumstances surrounding the incident by the UNESCO director-general in a telephone call Dr. Tal made Thursday.

The investigation carried out by the French authorities will reveal the perpetrators and the people supporting them, the UNESCO director-general informed Dr. Tal.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said a special envoy of the UNESCO director-general will arrive in Amman shortly to convey details of the incidents, its repercussions and the proposed measures for remedying it to Dr. Tal.

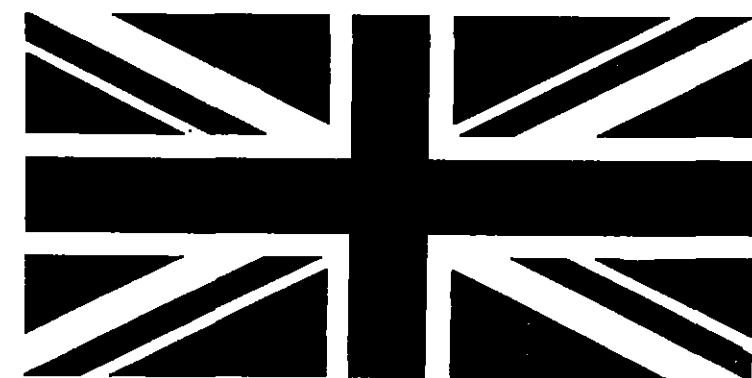
UNESCO says no key documents destroyed, page 8



Dr. Sa'id Al Tal

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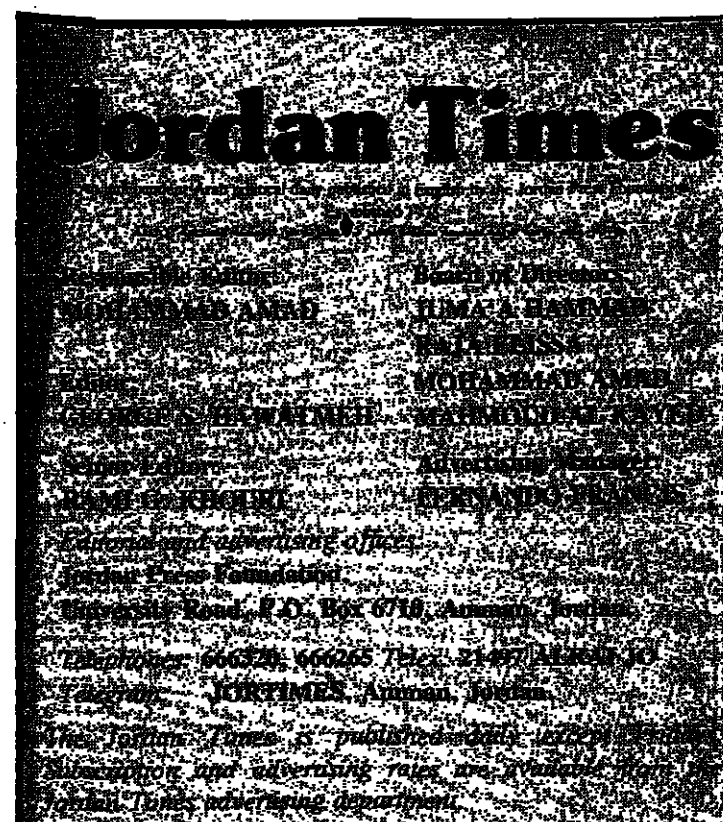
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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Undeclared agreement?

WERE THE announced conclusion of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference which has wound up its meetings in Lausanne, and the conditions prevailing in the conference only a play on which the conferees have agreed, after a secret agreement had been reached between the parties with the strongest militias to have authority shared amongst them? And were the clashes between the Progressive Socialist Party militia and the Murabitoun on the one hand and those between mainly Shi'ite Amal and the Palestinian people in Sabra and Shatila camps only planned roles to prepare the Lebanese forum for implementing the unproclaimed agreement?

Such questions do not arise from a vacuum: they are emanate from the following:

First, rejection by former Lebanese President Sulaiman Franjeh of the amendments to the authorities of the president and his allegation that such amendments led to the failure of the "political reforms plan" which all parties have agreed to. Such a stance on Mr. Franjeh's part is not sufficient to produce this result, as the real weight of such a rejection is secondary, if compared with the weight represented by the other parties, including the Lebanese regime. This indicates that the failure to adopt such a plan is not but a cover.

Second, the liquidation by the PSP forces of the Murabitoun militia, former allies of the PSP, is surprising, since there are no political justifications for such a move.

Third, the tension between Amal and the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila is strange, too, as the two parties were allies under the worst circumstances, particularly as there are no deep political differences between them.

Thus, it seems that the Lausanne conference has resulted in new categorical alliance on the Lebanese forum, an alliance between the parties with the strongest militias; and it seems that they have decided amongst themselves to be the "major powers" which will share authority, and to get rid of the militias emanating from other organisations, so that they announce the secret agreement and to implement it.

This image, which is full of shadows makes one enquire whether the scenario which came up as a result of the Lausanne conference will put an end to the Lebanese tragedy or will create new conflicts whereby the National Salvation Front's parties liquidate themselves, thus leaving the stage for the Falangist militias.

Al Dustour: Save Muslim blood

WHATEVER THE reasons behind the bloody act committed by the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia against the Murabitoun forces in Lebanon, the bloody clash between the brethren in arm and religion is unforgivable, and those who have caused it, since such an act by an Islamic party against another serves nobody, cannot be pardoned either. On the contrary, it splits the Islamic camp and disperses efforts for unifying all parties in Lebanon, be they Muslims or Christians.

We hoped that following the end of the meetings in Lausanne that all Lebanese parties in the National Salvation Front unite their efforts and guns to restore the national unity of Lebanon as a first step, instead of making further divisions among Islamic groups, who are part of this front.

The split of Islamic groups will draw the National Salvation Front to side battles which it is in no need of, particularly in the light of the outcome of the Lausanne conference.

Renewal of bloody clashes in west Beirut between yesterday's partners for a handful of narrow categorical gains is no good sign for Lebanon, and is otherwise a sign of new intimidation and terror campaign and further destruction.

Therefore, the Lebanese people are required to unite themselves to put an end to such bloody clashes. While we appeal to all Lebanese people to rally their ranks in order to find a way out for the ten-year bloody crisis which has torn Lebanon, we call on the Islamic groups, which have declared war of liquidation against one another, to fear God and to save Muslims further bloodshed.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Blackmail standards

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S decision to scrap a plan for selling missiles to Jordan can only corroborate our conviction that U.S. policies in this part of the world are based on blackmail. This blackmail is manifested clearly in the excuse which the president resorted to — to scrap the missiles plan in exchange for killing a motion in Congress calling for the transfer of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Again we witness lack of principle and ethics in U.S. politics. The American administration and Congress realise too well that Jerusalem is an occupied Arab city and cannot be annexed to Israel in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, and therefore no embassy should be transferred to the city. Both the administration and the Congress realise these facts, but, nevertheless, they choose to use the plan as a lever to blackmail Saudi Arabia and Jordan so as not to sell them the anti-aircraft missiles which they need for their defence.

Jordan, which has exposed this cheap blackmail, will never bow to attempts at imposing hegemony or domination, and will not hesitate to purchase arms for its armed forces from any source to ensure its defence.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab solidarity essential

FOLLOWING THE U.S. decision to scrap plans for selling Jordan anti-aircraft missiles, the Arab Nation should now take action vis-a-vis the United States. At least those countries which possess the means and the oil, the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia, should make the U.S. administration understand that Jordan would not be left alone. They should stop acting negatively and stand firm in the face of all foreign powers which try to impose their hegemony on Jordan.

The U.S. has considerable interests in the Arab World, and this must help the Arabs get their way with the United States. Those Arabs who stand and watch and do nothing to help us would be helping the U.S. in its policies against Jordan.

The Stinger missiles are essential for Jordan's defence, and the cancellation of the deal would no doubt harm us and of course harm the interests of other Arab states including those where U.S. has vital interests. Arab states have moral and national responsibility to come to the aid of Jordan and help it in every way to confront the challenge and defend itself.

U.S. peace efforts: Principles versus practices

Following is the full text of Her Majesty Queen Noor's speech at the Arab-American Affairs Conference in Chicago, delivered on March 23, 1984.

THANK YOU, Senator Stevenson, for your kind words of introduction.

I am delighted to be in Chicago with you tonight and to participate in this conference on current trends in relations between the Arab World and the United States. At the outset, I would like to commend the sponsors of this gathering, the American-Arab Affairs Council, the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies of the University of Chicago, and the Middle America Committee, for bringing together such a distinguished group of analysts to discuss candidly such important issues of common concern.

The participation of so many of you at this conference indicates how much Americans are concerned about the quality of their country's relationships with the Arab World. On behalf of the people of Jordan and my husband, I welcome your interest and hope my remarks this evening will make some contribution to advancing U.S.-Arab relations.

We all share in the long history of growing ties between the United States and the Arab World, particularly in such fields as economic and technical co-operation, education, travel and cultural exchange. But at the same time, an honest person must face the harsh reality that political and emotional sentiments between Arabs and Americans may be at their lowest point in many decades — and could be deteriorating instead of improving.

I do not want simply to skirt the sensitive issues that seem to push us further apart and polarise the Middle East into dangerous zones of superpower influence. I would like us here tonight to make an honest and candid effort to come to grips with the difficult questions that are on our minds in the Arab World — questions that seriously divide us, and questions that I hope will be discussed more objectively throughout this country.

America rightly prides itself on a tradition of free and open discussion that is inscribed both in the Constitution of the nation and in the hearts of its people. We are all aware of the rich wellspring of principles that make America great — principles such as equality and the due process of law, the sacred rights of the individual, personal and collective freedoms, self-determination and a commitment to liberty.

But, we are not here tonight just to politely acknowledge these noble principles. Rather, I think it would be more appropriate, in the current circumstances of the Middle East and Arab-American relations, to snap out of our complacency and try to reverse the ugly and dangerous trends that confront us both.

I mention the richness of American traditions and principles because they are a beacon, they are a standard, set for all people around the world who share, or aspire to share, the heritage of freedom and personal liberties that is the cornerstone of American life.

But when the United States and its recent history are viewed from the perspective of the Arab World today, it looks far different. It raises both serious doubts and some sadness in the minds of those who would otherwise admire America, and even wish to emulate it.

America comes through to us in the Arab World as a jumble of contradictions between principles and practice, an endless source of weaponry and money that Israel uses against us, and a disturbing example of how great powers lose both their way and their credibility when the promise of their noble intentions is vanquished by the irresolute, inconsistencies and partisanship of their policies on the ground.

Let us not mince our words or run from the facts: I come to you today from an Arab World in which American embassies are being bombed, in which Americans are targets for assassination, in which the occasional presence of American military forces in the Middle East produces awkward fortresses that can hardly protect themselves, let alone promote stability in the wider region in which they operate. Many throughout the Arab World grow increasingly convinced that America may be a source of our troubles, and not an instrument of their resolution. We grow increasingly concerned about the widening gap between noble American declarations about the Middle East, and what we perceive to be predominantly unhelpful American deeds in the Middle East.

I said that I come to you tonight with these hard questions. I can also tell you without any hesitation that if these questions are fully addressed by the people and government of the United States, I am confident that a major step forward could be made on the road of better relations and greater understanding between our two worlds and our two peoples. I come to you tonight from Jordan and the Arab World, but I stand

my journey here in America. As a child, as an adolescent, as a student and a young adult, I was privileged to grow up in America and to benefit from the very finest of this country could offer in the fields of education, culture and the arts. I was never restrained from pursuing any of my interests because I was a woman. I was never told to lower my sights and be satisfied with what I had already accomplished, but rather I was always supported and encouraged when I wanted to learn new things and achieve new objectives. In short, as a child and a student in America in my formative years, I was instilled with a powerful and beautiful sense of responsibility to do my best and reach the fullest expression of my abilities and aspirations. I believe I absorbed some of the most valuable elements from the rich repository of American principles and virtues, and this is something I shall value for the rest of my life.

Different image

But I look to America now from my home in Jordan and I see a different image reflected at me, at my husband and children and family, at my people and at my country's hope for a better future.

I see an America whose impressive moral armour remains largely intact — except for a chink where the American ethos has been scarred by the inconsistencies and moral frailty of its Middle Eastern policies.

I see an America that professes to promote peace among Arabs and Israelis by encouraging negotiations, but itself refuses to open a dialogue with the chosen representatives of the Palestinian people.

I see an America that recognises the illegality of Israeli settlements in occupied Arab lands, but then increases its annual aid to Israel and thereby actively perpetuates those very settlements.

I see an America that asks Jordan and the Palestinians and other like-minded Arabs to show moderation and boldness — while America's aid to Israel is characterised by immorality in its quantity, along with a distressing lack of resolve in applying either the letter of spirit of the legal sanctions that govern the transfer of American weapons to third parties.

I see an America that speaks of peace in the Middle East, but finances an Israeli militarism that appears not to be constrained either by international law or by American standards of right and wrong.

I see an America that claims to value Arab moderation, but pursues policies of virtually unquestioning support for Israel that only make Arab moderation a precarious and sometimes even dangerous business.

I see an America that expects the Arabs to enter into negotiations for peace without any pre-conditions — while America's own Middle East policy continues to reflect many of Israel's longstanding pre-conditions.

From my home in Jordan, I see a far different America than the one I grew up in, than the one whose strong moral values remain with me constantly as a source of strength and hope.

I believe it is time for America to ask itself the hard questions that others are asking about it throughout the Middle East, and throughout much of the rest of the world:

Double-standards

Why does the country that gave the world the concept of self-determination refuse to apply it to the Palestinians?

Why does the country that claims to disagree with so many Israeli policies — such as settlements and the occupation of Arab lands — perpetuate those very policies by generous quantities of foreign aid that now average about two-and-a-half billion dollars a year, or the equivalent of almost the entire gross domestic product of my country?

Why does the country that professes to cherish global and regional peace, based on a balance of interests and peaceful co-existence between the superpowers, insist on trying to promote a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute only under its own aegis, without seeking a comprehensive negotiating forum where all important and interested international powers would be represented?

Why does the country that negotiated with the Vietcong, the Zimbabwean guerrilla groups and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) refuse to apply the same criteria of political legitimacy to the chosen leadership of the Palestinians, which has been recognised by the United Nations and over 120 countries throughout the world?

Anti-American sentiments

The level and tone of anti-



American sentiment throughout the Arab World are rising. And it is distressing to all of us to see that anti-American talk is being translated more and more into acts of brutal violence against American interests and individuals in the area. It would be a mistake of colossal proportions for the United States government or public to brush this aside as merely an unavoidable aspect of an oriental mentality that gravitates to violence and extreme rhetoric.

Certainly, I understand the charge that we in the Arab World have not always presented a single, clear, unified position on what we want and where we stand vis-a-vis America and the role of the Western and Eastern nations. There may have been circumstances in the past when we were handicapped by our own differences and polarisation within the Arab World. But we have responded to many calls in a positive manner to enhance the prospects for peace in the region, despite Israel's continued intransigence and the unwillingness of other involved parties to accept the principle of Palestinian national self-determination. Are we being asked to make peace on reasonable and reciprocal terms for both Arabs and Israelis, or are we being asked to surrender unconditionally to the militarism and territorial extravaganza of an Israeli state backed by the seemingly unquestioning might of the United States of America?

Dangerous trend

I see a dangerous trend in America that sometimes tries to explain away anti-Americanism in the Arab World as a manifestation of "the Arab character" or, even more insulting, "the Islamic mind". It may be easy for Americans to see Arabs and Muslims through the distorted spectacles of centuries of misrepresentation and falsehoods; but it is wrong, and it is dangerous.

The negative stereotype of the Arab in America and the West as a whole has a long history, going back hundreds of years. In past centuries, when contact between the West and the Arab World was limited to the occasional traveller, or the occasional military confrontation, one could more easily understand the tradition of two-way misunderstanding that prevailed for so long. But today's situation is very different. Personal contacts between Arabs and Americans take place in the millions, in such areas as trade, education, tourism and official exchanges. The information media of both people provide saturation coverage of important political developments, and the interested Arab or American who seeks accurate information about the other can find hundreds of books, articles or films at his or her fingertips.

The problem is not always one of a lack of accurate information. It is deeper than that. It is a problem of how to undo the damage of centuries of misinformation, political conflict, and the tendency of the West to look at our world through the spectacular and often spellbinding mist of fantasy, and imaginations run wild. Unfortunately, there is still considerable negative stereotyping of Arabs in America, perpetuated through insulting advertising, films, editorial cartoons, popular novels, theatre, television and capricious journalism that suffers in part from the commercial nature of a highly competitive press. Some of the negative stereotyping is unintentional and perhaps even unconsciously done, and apologies have been made in many cases.

This, too, has always been an American strength — an insistence to learn the truth, to have the facts, to deal with realities on the ground, and ultimately to formulate national policies based on the real interests and motives of real people throughout the world. In some other cases, however, I suspect the official statements and policies of Israel and its single-

minded advocates in this country have re-inforced the negative image of the Arab in American minds. The image itself has changed over the years, and has portrayed the Arab, variously, as a bloodthirsty killer, an excessively romantic desert bedouin, a heartless terrorist, a pro-Communist extremist or a wealthy, oil-rich sheikh jazzed but also baffled by Western ways.

Once again, I acknowledge that we, too, have not always done the best we can to present our case to the world in the most professional and productive manner. Our information systems in the Arab states, and our associated efforts to tell our side of the story throughout the world, have not always produced the desired results.

Significant improvement

To be sure, in recent years the American mass media has significantly improved its coverage of political and economic developments in the Middle East. Specifically, we have seen much more balanced and accurate coverage of Israeli actions that are contrary to the cause of peace and the principles of the American people, who have to finance so much of what Israel does in the region. The Western media have also gone to great lengths to report more accurately about the plight and political aspirations of the Palestinians. The particular concerns of individual Arab countries have also been better conveyed to the West, within the context of the specific requirements and aspirations of those countries. The ability of Western journalists to look at single Arab states in their own right, and not always to lump all the Arabs together in one amorphous group, is also a sign of greater responsibility and objectivity in the reporting of international events.

I do not doubt the ability of the American media and people to recognise where they have made mistakes in the past, especially mistakes based on a lack of information and infrequent contacts with the Arab World. It is a great source of hope for us in the Arab World to see the American media reporting more accurately about events in the Middle East, and to see a lessening in the portrayal of Arabs as politically dangerous, economically menacing or socially comic figures.

I am also encouraged by the increasing awareness in the United States of the real nature and values of Islam. More Americans who take the time to learn about Islam are realising the core of tolerance and compassion that defines Islamic values — values that are so deeply shared with Christians and Jews. All three religions worship the same God and abide by His divine revelations, transmitted to them through the various prophets of the Bible and the Koran.

We are aware that in recent years the people of the United States have made a substantial effort to learn more about the true nature of Islam and the societies of the Middle East. This is evident in the brisk growth of both public and private institutions devoted to serious scholarship on different aspects of the Islamic and Arab Worlds. University departments, museums, independent think tanks, publishing houses, commercial associations and religious bodies — these help create a better two-way flow of information in the service of genuine understanding in the long run.

How long can we wait? How much time do we really have to neutralise the negativism of the hour, reverse the current trend towards militarism and radicalism, and start forming a coalition of reason that could identify the middle ground that is acceptable to Arabs and Americans, to Palestinians and Israelis?

Just as the register of American virtues is both substantial and noble, the list of contributions by

Arabs to modern civilisation is equally impressive, though probably less well known. Over a thousand years ago, the Arabic language and Arab scholars were key factors in preserving Graeco-Roman ideas, which were refined and added to before being transmitted to the West to help fuel the renaissance of ideas in such fields as religion, history, medicine, philosophy, law and science.

Increasing hostility

Why, therefore, do these two rich and proud people — the Americans and the Arabs — face each other today across a sea of increasing hostility and doubt? Why is our mutual quest for closer economic and technical ties so hampered by political differences?

Clearly, the noble principles of American democracy and ethics are not always being applied equally in the formulation of American policy in the Middle East. The ability of the United States government to discriminate, for example, in the application of the principle of national self-determination is of enormous concern to us — as should be of equal concern to the American people themselves.

Exclusive attitude

When we look at Washington, we see that the concept of freedom for all people is divisible — because the Palestinians are not free.

We see that the concern for the human rights of all people is unequally applied, because the deprivation of the human rights of the Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian citizens under Israeli occupation is indirectly funded by the generosity of the American taxpayer.

We see, finally, that attempts by reasonable people to forge closer ties between Americans and Arabs are constantly hampered by an apparent and perplexing inclination in Washington to value relations with Israel more than relations with the Arab World.

I do not want to leave you with the impression that we lay all of the problems of the Middle East at the doorstep of the United States. We know that some of our problems and challenges are unrelated to our dispute with Israel or to the stateless condition of the Palestinians. We know that some countries in the Middle East have to answer for their own inadequacies in the field of human rights and political freedoms.

But our own problems look almost small and easy in the face of 36 years of American partiality in the Middle East, and 36 years of massive funding for one of the world's most outstanding denials of an entire people's national rights.

I said earlier that I did not come here tonight to engage in self-congratulatory niceties. I have come with hard questions, in the belief that only by addressing these questions together can we hope to reverse the recent trend of mistrust and hostility between the United States and the Arab World.

There is too much at stake to allow the extremists and the mis-

chief makers on both sides to dominate the scene. On our side, what is at stake is the determination of many millions of Arabs to live in peace and freedom and to once again use our substantial human and natural resources to make our proper contribution to the advancement of all mankind — as we have done in the past.

On your side, what is at stake is the awesome tradition of an America that practices what it preaches, an America that dares to adopt a truly impartial policy in the Middle East that affirms, rather than confounds, the concept of equanimity and equal rights before the law. This has been the hallmark of a proud America for just over two hundred years. But we ask, in sadness and bewilderment: Why are the Palestinians exempted from this policy? Why do you make exceptions in the application of your most powerful weapon, your proven commitment to freedom and liberty and self-respect for all people? And what does this mean for you as Americans?

American responsibility

I cannot answer these questions. You in the United States — people and policy-makers — have to tackle these questions yourselves. All I know is that I and my people in Jordan and the Arab World look at America today and come away with mixed signals.

In the meantime, our two peoples continue to drift in a current of misunderstanding and political roadblocks. Our hopes for a peaceful, negotiated resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict become increasingly illusory. Worse than this, however, our shared values of human dignity, freedom and self-respect are being distorted and ravaged by the excesses of extremist elements on both sides. Only they gain credibility, while the forces of moderation on both sides fight the more difficult battle.

We do not have to drift into immobility and angry frustration, and neither should we sink into a cycle of gloom or militarism. We have identified a middle ground upon which a fair, permanent resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict can be built. If we are both faithful to our rich heritage of compassion and freedom, I am sure we shall prevail.

We must prevail, for we both aspire to show the world what good can be done when Americans and Arabs join forces to do good in a world where goodness has too often fallen casualty to bitterness and despair.

Let us prevail together. Let us re-affirm our common commitment to Woodrow Wilson's principle of self-determination, but let us this time around re-affirm that self-determination is the right of all people, and not only some people. Let us reinvigorate our joint quest for excellence — in politics and diplomacy, as well as in the humanitarian advancement of science, culture and thought to which both Arabs and Americans have contributed so much.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you all and give you strength.

Local election a test for Ozal's popularity

By Hugh Carnegie
Reuter

ANKARA — Turkey's first civilian government since the 1980 military coup faces a crucial test of its popularity on Sunday in countrywide local elections for posts ranging from big city mayors to village headmen.

Parties barred from the general election last November, in which Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party swept to power, have been cleared to fight the local elections and have mounted big campaigns to defeat the parliamentary parties.

"These local elections carry importance far beyond their immediate scope and have become a kind of referendum," according to the left-of-centre daily newspaper Cumhuriyet.

Mr. Ozal's party, one of only three allowed by the military to contest the general election, won power on a platform of free-market economic reform. Other parties protested that Mr. Ozal was elected in a false contest, and the local elections have become a keenly-fought test of the credibility of parliament and Mr. Ozal's conservative government.

The two main non-parliamentary parties are the Social Democrat Party (SODEP) and the right-wing True Path Party, which latest opinion polls shows ahead of Mr. Ozal's parliamentary opposition, the Rightist Nationalist Democracy Party (NDP) and the left-centre Populist Party. A poll in the independent daily Milliyet showed Mr. Ozal's Motherland Party leading with 33.9 per cent, a significant slide from

the 45 per cent support it won in the general election.

SODEP was running a strong second with 26.7 per cent and True Path third with 10.4 per cent. The NDP and the Populists trailed with four and 9.4 per cent respectively, less than the 10 per cent barrier required in general elections to get into parliament.

The prospect of the parliamentary opposition collapsing and his party failing to secure an overall victory has stung Mr. Ozal into criticising SODEP and True Path as being shadows of Turkey's troubled past.

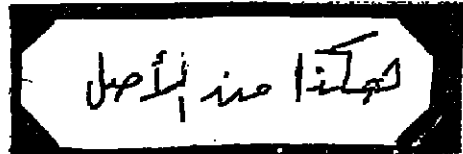
"Believe me, they are wolves in sheep's clothing. They want the country to face new disasters," Mr. Ozal told a rally in the eastern city of Erzurum.

He was referring to links SODEP and True Path have with parties active before the 1980 coup.

All old parties were abolished by the military for tolerating the political violence which plagued Turkey before the coup. SODEP and True Path were barred from the general election for their respective links with the leftist Republican Peoples' Party (RPP) and the rightist Justice Party.

But political analysts say it is these links which give SODEP and True Path much of their strength, enabling them to draw on experienced local party organisations and considerable remaining sympathy for the old parties.

True Path, especially, has emphasised its links with the past, holding a huge rally in the hometown of former Prime Minister and Justice Party leader Suleyman Demirel and using the phrase "we are for justice" in its slogans.



Egypt has never been out of the Arab fold, Baz says

Following is the full text of the Jordan Times interview with Dr. Osama Al Baz, Director of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Political Affairs Office. The interview was conducted Wednesday by Afifah A. Kalot, Jordan Times Staff Reporter, during Dr. Baz' two-day visit to Jordan.

Question: Are there any plans for President Hosni Mubarak to visit Jordan soon?

Answer: There has not been any talk about a visit by President Mubarak to Jordan at any given date, but it would be only natural for His Majesty King Hussein and for President Mubarak to visit each other in continuation of their meetings which took place in Delhi and in Washington and as a follow-up to their contacts by letters and phones.

Q: Do you think that the time has come for Egypt to return to the Arab fold?

A: We believe that Egypt is already in the heart of the Arab World. We are in the middle of the Arab effort to achieve peace and stability throughout our region to solve disputes among Arab states by amicable means and to defend the Arab cause everywhere. To do that, Egypt does not attach any importance to the question of its status within the Arab League because this is a secondary element and in fact we consider it a non-factor altogether.

We believe that the membership in the League does not add to one's ability to influence the course of events and that Egypt's absence from the League does not hinder in the least our ability to assume our Arab role.

So the question of our membership in the League under the present circumstances is a matter of form rather than substance. We do not believe that the League is the only vehicle through which an Arab state can shoulder its responsibility and conduct its policy with the view to safeguarding Arab rights and promoting Arab interests.

Q: How does Egypt think it can help in ending the Iran-Iraq war?

A: The continuation of this war, let alone its escalation, is most dangerous to all countries in the Middle East and in fact to all nations of the world, and therefore, we take it upon ourselves to do everything we can to help end that war.

The core of the dispute now emanates from Iran's refusal of Iraq's willingness to end the war unconditionally and to solve all outstanding issues by negotiations. So we believe that all the countries, specially the super powers and the other countries, that wield special influence globally, are under an obligation to help end the fighting as follows:

First, by bringing pressure on the belligerents in order to sit down and negotiate their differences.

Secondly, by refraining from supplying both belligerents with weapons and war material as well

as urging other countries to observe a strict moratorium on the supply of arms to both parties.

Thirdly, by a helping device, a formula or several formulas that could lead both countries to the negotiating table.

In our contacts with various countries, we make it crystal clear that the fighting and its impact are not confined to Iran and Iraq; rather, it has serious repercussions throughout the region and it endangers the security and the stability of the entire Middle East.

We urge all the countries we contact to take certain steps which could contribute in our view to the process of terminating the war and paving the road for peace.

Egypt has no animosity towards the people of Iran and we do not believe that there is any basic contradiction in the interest of Iran and in the interest of any Arab people including the Iraqis.

There is a commonality of interests that centres around maintaining peace and tranquillity, preventing outside intervention and directing our resources to the urgently needed task of developing our society, socially, economically and culturally.

So, Egypt's position vis-a-vis this war is not one of taking the side of Iraq, but one of promoting peace between Iran and Iraq.

Nevertheless, Egypt cannot disregard the fact that one of the parties to the conflict is on record accepting a peaceful settlement while the other party is insisting on continuing and escalating the war as well as on introducing conditions which cannot possibly be met.

In other words, Egypt perceives of its mission in this juncture in terms of dissuading Iran from continuing the bloodshed and persuading it accept a negotiated settlement.

In our view, the only way to achieve this target is to prove to Iran that it cannot possibly win the war and that it cannot prevail over Iraq because Iraq is not alone and the Iraqi people have demonstrated repeatedly that they are solidly behind their leadership and that they are willing to continue to defend their land and dignity regardless of the sacrifice they are asked to make.

Q: Regarding the latest air raid on Omdurman, Sudan, what do you think is behind the escalation of tensions on the Sudanese-Libyan border? What makes you sure that Libya was behind this escalation and who would benefit from such an escalation?

A: I do not think that one could analyse the situation there through a logical and rational interpretation that would focus on deciding the beneficiaries because the unfortunate fact remains that

much of what is happening in our region is both irrational and illogical: it defies our comprehension to say why Libya is determined to maintain a relationship of tension with all its neighbours.

In our view, that does not serve the interest of any Arab state, neither the peoples' nor the rulers' interests.

However, it is a fact that the relationship between Libya and all its neighbours is marred by tension and distrust. We are reluctant to accept the conspiratorial interpretation of history and of political phenomena.

For that reason, we do not like to jump to conclusions that a certain power in the East or in the West stands behind a certain aspect of Libyan policy.

The irrefutable fact is that Libya seems to believe that it could play a prominent part in the Arab World and North Africa through destabilising the neighbouring countries and intimidating other countries as well.

That has prompted the Libyan regime to engage in policies designed to undermine governments that do not ally themselves with Libya and its policy.

The Libyan leadership insistently seeking to force other Arab countries, especially neighbouring ones, to enter into immediate unity with it whether this unity can come as a natural result, a culmination of concerted effort, and a constant line of policy or not. In other words, the Libyan policy towards its Arab and African neighbours seems to centre on offering them a rigid option between total unity and extreme hostility. This has not worked in the past, and experience has shown that for Arab unity to continue and flourish, it has to be based on solid ground and has to take place gradually and in response to a genuine feeling among the masses of both parties to the unity.

In case of the relationship between Sudan and Libya, which is not basically different from Libyan relationship with Tunisia or Egypt, it is clear that Libya insists on imposing its will on Sudan and dictating to them the line of policy they should pursue domestically and externally.

Libya engaged itself into several activities designed to undermine the Sudanese government. The latest attack on civilian targets on Omdurman, is but one example which was perhaps more dramatic than previous attempts.

So our interpretation, our view of Libya's policy vis-a-vis its neighbours, and our own fact-finding task, lead us to believe that this operation was a Libyan one from A to Z and did not have any Sudanese dimension. The purpose of that operation was probably to start a movement that would res-

ult in toppling the government which is not viewed by Tripoli with favour.

Perhaps it was based on miscalculations which in turn emanated from the wrong assumption that there would be an uprising in Sudan with the first signal.

However, that proved wrong totally because if anything, that operation backfired on its perpetrators. The operation resulted in solidifying the Sudanese front behind the leadership of President Numeiri which is very natural.

Any people would draw closer together in the face of any danger from outside or any threat from abroad and that was precisely what took place in Sudan in the past few days.

On the one hand, it would result in enhancing the Sudanese defence capabilities and that is what is taking place at present, and on the other hand, Egypt has made it abundantly clear to Libya that it will not tolerate any further aggression on Sudan. We made this clear to Libya directly and through third parties.

Q: You met the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Khartoum recently, are there any new developments in the Egypt-PLO relations?

A: Our contacts with the leadership of the PLO focus on coordinating our efforts in order to mobilise our joint resources in the direction that would lead to the attainment of our goals. Our goal is to achieve a just and durable settlement, a settlement that would recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and allow all states in the region to live in peace and security.

We discuss with the PLO, as we do with other Arab parties, ways and means for promoting our cause as well as the policies pursued by other nations and accordingly co-ordinate our response.

Q: Do you think that there are any prospects for an American peace effort in the Middle East during the current election year?

A: We realise the fact that it is very unlikely that Americans would take any position that could contribute significantly to the achievement of peace in an election year. Recent history has taught us that an election year in the United States means either a standstill or feverish competition among the presidential candidates to gain favour with Israel and its staunch supporters in the U.S. regardless of the U.S. interest and the interest of world peace.

Q: Reagan plan of September 1982 was not initiated in an election year, what is your comment?

A: The fact that one does not expect any substantial movement

in an election year, does not mean that we should sit back and do nothing because it remains our obligation to mobilise all our resources and energy to serve our cause.

The United States as a world power and a close friend and ally to Israel bears a special responsibility towards all the people of the Middle East. It is a global power with certain tangible interest in the region, a fact that saddles the U.S. with an added responsibility. So we have to keep urging the U.S. to move and we have to prevent the worsening of the American position as a result of this auctioneering and the erosion in the American position.

That entails the maintenance of dialogue and contact with the U.S. It also requires us to be frank and at times to be blunt with the United States. The U.S. has repeatedly declared that it stood by the Reagan initiative of Sept. 1. If this is the case, it requires a certain line of policy on the part of the United States. It is not a matter of verbal exercise or an empty announcement, but rather one of adopting an active line of policy.

If the U.S. is serious in declaring its commitment to the Reagan formula, it should demonstrate this commitment by exerting maximum influence on Israel. America should persuade Israel to stop all its settlement activities, especially in the light of the fact that it has already expropriated almost 50 per cent of the land in the occupied Arab territories, illegally and converted it to Israeli settlements.

The Reagan plan is not dead, it is still there, but it is being put on the shelf because of the inaction on the part of the American government and the lack of response on the part of Israel. We should again test the American willingness and readiness to implement it and to promote it, at least.

Q: What about the U.S. test in Lebanon, which failed to solve an issue much simpler than the Palestinian one?

A: The U.S. was obviously unable to deliver in Lebanon, and the policy that was adopted there proved to be inconsistent. It also was below the level that one would expect from a country that volunteers to bear the responsibility, the country that was given the responsibility and the opportunity by all the parties concerned to help solve the outstanding problems.

What happened is that the U.S. policy in Lebanon failed the expectation of almost everybody. However, that should not lead us to conclude that the U.S. cannot be called upon to play any role in Palestine because this will be self-defeating; that would defeat our purpose. Abandoning U.S. would not only neutralise U.S. totally, but it would lead to a further alignment between the Israeli position and the American one. It

is a fact of life that our responsibility is to win over the support of all major powers to our goal because our goal is a legitimate and a just one which is the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Q: Don't you think that the inclusion of the Soviet Union in any peace efforts to be made is necessary?

A: No one can exclude the Soviet Union from the peace efforts. The Soviets have a role to play and a responsibility to assume, they are a super power.

Q: How do you think it could play its role in bringing peace to the Middle East?

A: The Soviet Union could play a constructive role by adopting a certain line of policy which promotes the goal of reaching a just and comprehensive settlement. The Soviets should be given credit for supporting the Arab position basically since the early fifties and they have remained supportive of that position.

However, what is needed now is the adoption of certain practical steps that would bring the parties closer to a negotiated settlement. Actually stating a position is different than translating this position



Dr. Al Baz speaking to A. Kalot

tion into reality and contribute positively to the cause of achieving a settlement.

A country that is not directly involved or which does not assume a special responsibility can take a position for the record, and that is it. That would suffice from a country which does not have a weight of a super power, but from a super power one would expect a certain priority to be given to the problem.

The Soviet Union, through its

contacts with the other super power, should give a certain priority to the Middle East and should make clear to the U.S. that peace in the Middle East is high on the agenda and it is as important as the question of disarmament and non-proliferation of arms.

In other words, the Soviet Union could assume a constructive role by entering into serious discussions on the Middle Eastern issue.

Do not write secrets to the Swedish prime minister

By Richard Wallis

STOCKHOLM—A group of political exiles opposed to one of the world's fiercest dictators recently sent Prime Minister Olof Palme a complete list of its members, saying he was the only man they could trust to keep it secret.

Like most of those who write to the prime minister, they did not realise that anyone, whether Swede or foreigner, has for hundreds of years had the right to walk into the Swedish prime minister's office any day and read his mail.

Visitors are not asked to state their names or purposes. The only exceptions are letters affecting Swedish security or Sweden's relations with foreign countries.

"The prime minister was very worried the embassy of the country concerned might get hold of the list and take reprisals against the families of the members," recalls Inga-Lena Wallin, who deals with Mr. Palme's correspondence.

"We did not know what to do. Unfortunately the group did not give an address so we could not even send the list back. Eventually, Mr. Palme decided to give it to the Foreign Ministry and asked it to keep it secret," she said.

A man from southern Sweden who wrote and asked the prime minister to grant him a driving licence on the grounds he had been driving without one for the last 40 years did not have the same luck in keeping his secret from the public eye.

Those who fall into the trap of indiscretion range from ordinary folk confessing private miseries to captains of industry committing future plans to paper.

In February 1983, Volvo chief Pehr Gyllenhammar wrote to Mr. Palme outlining a new scheme for Nordic economic co-operation. The letter ended with the fatal words: "If this is to have any chance of success, it must remain a secret."

By some coincidence, the press did not spot the letter, but Mr. Gyllenhammar has apparently still not taken in the fact that the premier is legally obliged to make his mail public.

One of the letters awaiting Mr. Palme's signature last week was a reply to a suggestion by Mr. Gyllenhammar that the government should invite the Japanese prime minister to Sweden and take him to Gothenburg to visit Volvo.

Sweden's first freedom of information act goes back to 1766 and since 1810 Swedes have enjoyed an unbroken tradition of

being able to consult most public documents, making Sweden's the most open government in Europe according to Mr. Palme's aides.

Claes Eklundh, the government's chief legal adviser, says that giving people the right to check on what the government is doing is not as much of a nuisance as outsiders might imagine.

Swedes are flooded with so much public information that they cannot bother to consult all the documents they are entitled to see, according to Mr. Eklundh.

Had this been a recent right, it might be different, but it is, novelty has worn off, said Mr. Eklundh.

In Sweden, even classified documents must be made public after 40 years. The only exceptions are certain defence plans because the involve fortresses built more the 40 years ago.

Mr. Palme himself receives about 15,000 letters a year and takes about two hours a week to go through the replies drafted by his assistant.

The priority file of replies awaiting his signature included, apart from Mr. Gyllenhammar's letter on the Japanese prime minister's appeal by a woman who lost all her teeth and a request by little girl for more TV sports programmes.

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English League Cup final overshadows 1st Division

LONDON (R) — Liverpool expect to field the side that triumphed in Lisbon in the European Champions' Cup quarter-final when they make their fourth consecutive appearance at Wembley in the English Football League Cup final here on Sunday.

Star striker Ian Rush, who scored his 35th goal of the season during Wednesday night's 4-1 victory over Benfica and required an ice-pack to keep down the swelling on his ankle injury, is almost certain to play in a full-strength team.

Opponents Everton, back at Wembley for the first time since 1976 when they went down to Aston Villa after two replays of a

disappointing League Cup final, have injury doubts about key midfielder Kevin Sheedy and striker Graeme Sharp.

Sheedy, a former Liverpool player and Everton's second top scorer with 10 goals this season, has missed three games with an ankle injury and may not recover in time, while Sharp is likely to recover from a knee injury and

play. Everton manager Howard Kendall may spring a surprise in his team by including former Southampton and Sheffield Wednesday winger Terry Curran.

If Liverpool win the final they will take the Milk Cup trophy outright for lifting it three times since it was presented by the competition's sponsors, the British Milk Marketing Board.

While the Wembley final overshadows the weekend's English domestic programme, it cannot hide the opportunity Manchester United have to establish a outright lead over Liverpool at the top of the first division.

After their magnificent 3-0 second leg win over Barcelona in the European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, United travel to meet third-placed Nottingham Forest, who reached the UEFA Cup semi-final this week after surviving a tricky tie in Austria against Sturm Graz.

If United win and fourth-placed Southampton slip up on the plastic pitch of sixth-placed Queen's Park Rangers, they will be well clear off the pack, leaving only Liverpool with a realistic chance of catching them for the title.

Iraqis beat Kuwaitis, better Gulf cup hopes

MUSCAT (R) — Pacesetter Iraq came from behind Thursday to trounce Kuwait 3-1 (halftime 0-1) and stretch their lead by two points in the seven-nation Arabian Gulf Soccer Tournament played here.

Iraqi star Hussein Said sent an equaliser only two minutes into the second half. Twenty-eight minutes later, Said displayed more opportunism to take his side 2-1 ahead from a point-blank shot and take his own goal tally in the tournament to seven.

Kuwait, 1982 World Cup finalists, were outclassed for the rest of the game by the Iraqis who stretched their lead to 3-1 in the dying minutes with a long-range shot from winger Karim Alawi.

The Iraqis, now with nine points from five matches, head the table with a two-point margin over the United Arab Emirates. Other sides competing in the tournament are Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Spencer doubtful starter for Kyalami Grand Prix

KYALAMI, South Africa (R) — World 500cc motorcycle champion Freddie Spencer is a doubtful starter for Saturday's South African Grand Prix, the opening round of the 1984 title chase.

Spencer fell from his Honda on the damp Kyalami track Thursday and missed Friday's second day of practice in order to let a sprained right ankle and bruised left foot heal.

"I'd rate my chances of starting around 50-50 right now," Spencer told Reuters from his hotel room

where he was bathing his feet in warm water. "The most difficult thing is going to be the bump start. I also wouldn't want to ride if I didn't feel comfortable on the bike," he added.

The champion from Shreveport, Louisiana, will decide whether to race at the track Saturday morning.

If Spencer does race, his radically new Honda will start from pole position Saturday. Miserable, rainy weather made practice almost worthless Friday, much to the chagrin of European-based riders who are constantly being told by locals that they had just missed one of South Africa's longest heat-waves.

Spencer on Thursday lapped the 4.104 km (2.550 mile) track in 1:26.57, averaging 170.66 km (106.67 miles) per hour.

Frenchman Raymond Roche is second fastest, having managed to better his time Friday morning with 1:28.29 on his Honda. He is followed by Suzuki riders Franco Uncini of Italy and Sergio Pellandini of Switzerland, with Italian Virginio Ferrari completing the first five as the fastest Yamaha rider.

British interest will focus on works Honda rider Ron Haslam and former World Champion Barry Sheene who take up the next two grid positions. Sheene, riding an ex-works Suzuki, knocked four seconds off his best lap time Friday morning.

Friday's 250 cc practice was a complete wash-out with none of the leading riders coming near times set Thursday.

Yamahas fill the first seven positions on the grid, with South African Mario Rademeyer fastest, followed by reigning World Champion Carlos Lavado of Venezuela whose compatriot Ivan Palazzese is next up.

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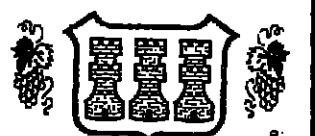
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ord lifts foreign sales

TROIT (R) — The Ford Motor Company had its best sales year in North America last year, maintaining its position as the dominant firm in international markets, according to a senior executive.

Combined Ford car sales in Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Asia-Pacific region rose 10 percent over 1982 to a record 1,400, though lorry sales of 7,400 declined six per cent.

ord, the world's second largest car company, made substantial gains in Asian and Pacific markets, increasing its overall share of international sales from 10.1 per cent to 10.4 per cent, said Mr. Lutz, the company's international chief.

Mr. Lutz told Reuters in an interview that though Ford ranks third in General Motors when U.S. foreign sales are combined, its 1983 sales kept it ahead of its competitors for sales outside their home countries.

ord said last month its earnings and its overseas operations declined by \$109 million to \$35 million last year. The company blamed the slide on the dollar's strength, the cost of new model introductions and one-off costs of European plant closures.

Despite increased competition from General Motors and Japan's Toyota Company, Mr. Lutz said 1983 was his company's second best international sales year in 81 years of doing business, with volume almost a million units ahead of Toyota.

Records were set in Britain, France and Taiwan and sales also increased in West Germany, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Malaysia and the Philippines. Ford announced earlier this week it would cease operations in the Philippines in August because of losses and problems in the local industry.

Sales declined from 1982 levels in Spain, Italy, Venezuela, Australia and New Zealand, even though Ford increased its market penetration in some of these countries.

U.K. may withhold payment to EC

LONDON (R) — Britain has reserved the right to withhold an emergency cash payment to the European Community (EC) if the 10 member states fail to come up with a solution next week to their long-term budget crisis.

The government Thursday welcomed a decision to hold a special meeting of community foreign ministers next Tuesday to try to build on the limited progress made at this week's failed summit in Rome.

But Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told parliament she would not now be going ahead with legislation to meet an emergency cash demand from the community.

Senior government sources made clear that if no progress was made next week Britain would consider withholding a requested payment of £100 million (\$140 million), its share of an advance on community contributions needed to meet a cash crisis.

They said the government's legal experts had advised that Britain would not be in breach of treaty obligations to its nine European partners by withholding the payment.

If progress was made, it would still be possible for the government to rush through legislation enabling it to make the payment, they said.

Mrs. Thatcher told parliament Thursday she hoped the foreign ministers meeting would unlock a £450 million (\$675 million) budget refund Britain says is due to it by March 31.

She said she also wanted to see agreement on a system for a long-term budgetary settlement of the community's problems.

France and Italy have blocked the refund but government sources said they believed Britain had nevertheless reached an understanding with the French.

Rift widens over U.S. deficit

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's hopes for an election-year bi-partisan effort to cut U.S. budget deficits have apparently ended in failure.

Opposition Democratic senators Thursday endorsed their party's proposal for a \$200 billion deficit reduction over three years, compared with Mr. Reagan's \$150 billion of cuts.

In his State of the Union address in January, Mr. Reagan asked Democrats to join his Republicans in an election-year common approach to the deficits, which are causing international concern because they tend to push up U.S. interest rates and the value of the dollar.

But after four unsuccessful meetings between White House aides and congressmen of both parties, the joint efforts seemed to fade away although the talks never formally broke down.

Mr. Reagan then started talking to Republicans only and last week announced his \$150 billion package.

Democrats in the House of Representatives countered this week with a plan for a \$184 billion deficit reduction over three years, and the Democratic Senate proposal adopted Thursday shows that agreement with the Republicans is further away than ever.

The main differences between the two parties are that the Democrats would hold down defence spending increases and raise taxes more.

Mr. Reagan has threatened to veto any tax increases beyond the \$48 billion allowed for in his own proposal unless they are accompanied by matching spending cuts.

Republicans in Congress have generally backed Mr. Reagan's plan, but some believe it does not send a strong enough signal to financial markets, which seek large deficit cuts to hold down interest rates.

Meanwhile, U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said Thursday the American dollar's value in relation to other currencies was too high because of

huge federal deficits.

He said reducing the U.S. budget deficit from the current \$180 billion range was the only way to solve the problem.

Mr. Baldrige's statement to the Chamber of Commerce contrasted with recent remarks by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, who said the dollar was not overvalued.

Mr. Baldrige said attempts were being made to reduce the dollar's value against the Japanese yen but no quick solution was in sight.

Treasury Department and Japanese officials are at present negotiating in Tokyo on ways to increase the use of the yen as a world currency, strengthening it relative to the dollar.

Mr. Baldrige said the U.S. trade deficit this year would probably reach \$110 billion.

The United States ran up a \$20 billion deficit with Japan alone in 1983 as the strong dollar made U.S. exports more expensive.

Mr. Baldrige repeated the administration's opposition to intervention in foreign currency markets as a solution.

French debt hits record

PARIS (R) — The French foreign debt reached a record 451 billion francs (\$55.2 billion) in 1983, making France one of the world's biggest debtor countries after Brazil, Mexico and the United States, finance ministry figures published Thursday showed.

Total medium and long-term borrowings were up by more than half from the previous year's 295.4 billion francs (\$36.4 billion). Most of the increase occurred in the first three months of 1983, before the government introduced a tough austerity policy in March to cut the country's massive trade deficit, government sources said.

France's foreign indebtedness has nearly doubled since the socialists came to power in May 1981, when total external debt stood at \$29.5 billion at the 1981 rate of exchange. The government increased overseas borrowing to cover foreign exchange lost in financing the trade deficit, and to rebuild foreign reserves depleted by speculative runs against the franc. Fresh funds are only being borrowed now for on-lending to other countries and for normal trading purposes, the sources said.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed following new time trying after a lower start on profit-taking and overnight weakness in Wall Street. Dealers said Friday's firm Wall Street opening helped sentiment. At 1500 Friday the F.T. 30 index was down 1.8 to 888.2 compared with 882.2 at 1000.

Pikington added 13p to 348 on bid speculation while Glaxo added 10p to 855. Bowater 4p to 278 and ICI 2p to 632. Fisons fell 18p to 772 on profit-taking and BICC fell 5p to 255 after Wednesday's lowering of profit estimates.

Government bonds firmed up to 3/4 point on the continued firm trend in the U.S. long bond. North American's eased.

Brillioil was 11p up at 276 after higher 1983 profits. B.P. added 1p to 493. Lasmo 5p to 288 and Shell was at 653 after 646. Fleet Holdings was one off at 160 having gained from 157 on news Robert Holmes & Court's Associated Communications Corp. (Channel Islands) had a 10 per cent interest in the company.

anks ended a quiet session mixed with Natwest up 7p to 654 and Barclays up 5p to 509 after 512 while Midland eased 3p to 384.

Insurances mainly returned to overnight levels after an easier opening but Legal and General was off 5p at 473 and General Accident was down 8p at 485 after 476. At 1530 Friday the F.T.-S.E. 100 index was down 0.8 to 1116.4 compared with 1109.7 at 0945.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

sterling	1.4278/88	U.S. dollars
one U.S. dollar	1.2756/59	Canadian dollars
	2.6350/60	West German marks
	2.9730/40	Dutch guilders
	2.1775/90	Swiss francs
	53.90/95	Belgian francs
	8.1250/1300	French francs
	1629.25/1630.25	Italian lire
	226.30/40	Japanese yen
	7.8025/8125	Swedish crowns
	7.5775/5875	Norwegian crowns
	4.6375/6475	Danish crowns
one ounce of gold	387.75/388.25	U.S. dollars

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Soviet trade success astounds experts

MOSCOW (R) — The sharp switch from deficit to surplus in Soviet trade with the West is a remarkable turnaround based on sustained oil exports and reduced grain purchases, Western economic experts said Thursday.

Commenting on provisional 1983 trade figures published Wednesday showing a one billion rouble (\$1.3 billion) surplus in trade with the industrialised world, one analyst said: "The foreign trade ministry can expect good marks when it presents its work to its political leaders."

Others said last year's surplus, which followed a 100 million rouble (\$130 million) deficit in 1982 and a still larger deficit in 1981, was even more surprising given the cooling in East-West political relations over the same period.

"They appear to have succeeded in maintaining oil and oil-related exports despite the drop in the world price," a specialist from Western Europe said.

North American experts said energy exports constituted less than half of the Soviet success story. They attributed the surplus to a cut-in grain purchases following a relatively good harvest last year.

They said Moscow had cut grain purchases from Canada and did not buy much more than the five million tonne minimum requirement. Canada ranks third below the United States and Argentina in grain sales to Moscow.

The West European noted that the figures showed 86 per cent of Moscow's exports to France were fuel-related and that a large surplus with West Germany was consolidated through energy sales.

Another specialist said the surplus with the West represented a virtually pure hard-currency reserve which could be even further swollen if a Soviet trade deficit with Finland totalling 300 million roubles (\$390 million) in the first nine months of 1983 were taken into

account.

The figures, published in the weekly Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta, show Soviet exports to the West totalled \$19.7 billion roubles (\$25.6 billion) against \$18.8 billion (\$24.4 billion) in 1982, imports dropped 200 million (\$260 million) to 18.7 billion (\$24.3 billion).

Chemicals, heavy industrial goods and timber products were also significant in boosting Soviet exports.

Moscow's overall trade surplus grew by 20 per cent last year to 8.3 roubles (\$10.8 billion) compared with 6.9 billion roubles (\$9 billion) in 1982.

Exports to the Third World rose to 10.5 billion roubles (\$13.6 billion) from 10.2 billion roubles (\$13.3 billion) in 1982, while imports rose more sharply to 7.2 billion roubles (\$9.4 billion) from 6.7 billion roubles (\$8.7 billion).

Overall, Soviet foreign trade turnover in 1983 increased by 6.6

per cent to 127.5 billion roubles (\$165.8 billion) against 119.6 billion roubles (\$155.5 billion) in 1982.

Western economic experts noted Soviet exports were flat in the first nine months of 1983 but picked up in the final three.

West Germany remained Moscow's top Western trading partner last year, with turnover reaching 7.02 billion roubles (\$9.13 billion) in 1983, an increase of 5.6 per cent.

Trade with France increased by nearly 14 per cent to 4.1 billion roubles (\$5.3 billion) and with Britain by 13.8 per cent to 1.81 billion roubles (\$2.3 billion).

Turnover with Japan fell to three billion roubles (\$3.9 billion) from 3.7 billion roubles (\$4.8 billion) while with the United States it dropped 340 million roubles (\$440 million) to 2.24 billion roubles (\$2.9 billion).

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword

by Victor Jambor, Jr.

ACROSS

1 Sea swallow
5 Property
10 Set forth in order
14 Solo
15 Sleevlike container
16 Aware of
17 Mark of an ace pitcher
20 Norse god
21 Bring to court
22 In the lead
23 Cafe patron
25 Health resort
26 Breast bone; comb. form

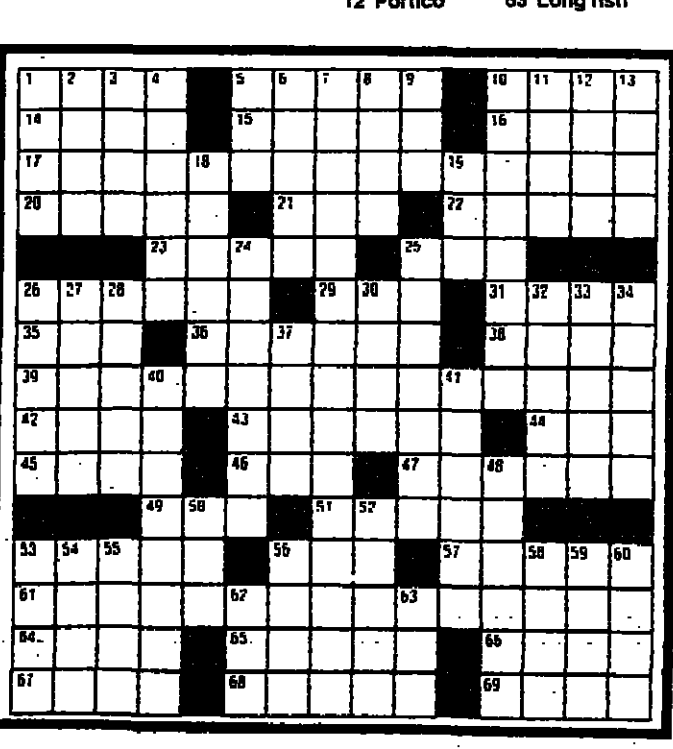
DOWN

29 High in pitch
31 Fad
35 Novelist
36 "Ars — arts"
38 Tops a cake
39 One of 3 certain dots
42 Judicial proceedings
43 Immediately
44 Before
45 Not so great
46 — Quixote
47 Dinner course

13 Informed
18 Fruit
19 Be careless
24 Twister
25 Postures
28 Agave fiber
27 Coase-fire
28 Oriens
30 Socially prominent person
32 Quaker gray
33 Art form
34 Cosmetician
37 Concerning
40 Diversions
41 Confined
48 General purports
50 Numeral
52 — Oakley
53 Prima donna
54 — test
55 Split apart
56 Take — the
57 I am
58 Food limit?
59 Wavy in heraldry
60 Eng. town
62 White or downright
63 Long fish

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

BLAST SCIENCE DITILLI
ALCATAXIS BOITE
STIGH AITION CIEN
THAKTOHRIERAD
EVER HOLLY
FLORIDA SPACIES
MAIRE SLOUGH ALI
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ETIO LINGAGE UNTO
ASTOR KNEEL
DOLL AMUS
RUILOFTHRIAD
YUUD OARER VITAL
WEDD OIBAD EOWIA
ETIE SEEDY REED



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Salvadorean rebels damage plane carrying ballot boxes

SAN SALVADOR (R)—An air force plane carrying ballot boxes was damaged when it ran over a mine planted by guerrillas in their campaign to disrupt Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador, officials said.

Armando Rodriguez, president of the Central Elections Council, said more than 150 of the boxes were also damaged Thursday when the Hercules C-123 transport plane hit the mine on landing at El Obrajuelo Airfield, 132 kilometres east of San Salvador.

He said guerrillas had placed three mines on the landing strip to prevent electoral officials from delivering the boxes to the town of San Miguel, 10 kilometres from the airfield.

The rebel action was part of a guerrilla offensive launched last weekend with the motto: "No to the electoral force, yes to the popular war."

The army, which called a state of alert on Wednesday, was mounting round-the-clock patrols to prevent guerrilla attacks against voters and polling booths.

Troops attempting to secure the elections took the guerrilla-held town of La Palma without a fight Thursday. Residents and jou-

nalists said the guerrillas retreated peacefully when troops entered the town 65 kilometres north of San Salvador.

In San Salvador, guerrillas knocked out three electoral pylons in three separate dynamite bombings early Thursday in the northern part of the capital, officials said.

The army harmlessly exploded six guerrilla bombs Thursday during anti-guerrilla sweeps, 26 kilometres north of San Salvador, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman said troops from the U.S.-trained Belloso battalion found two of the bombs as they were conducting anti-guerrilla operations near the towns of Tonacatepeque and Ilopango.

Officials said the sweep included attacks on guerrilla positions at the Guazapa Volcano north of San Salvador. They gave no details of any casualties.

Reagan, Senate compromise

WASHINGTON (R)—President Reagan has agreed to support a compromise reached between Senate Democrats and Republicans which would mean less U.S. military aid for El Salvador than he had been seeking.

The compromise included a delay on a Senate vote on the aid until next week in return for opposition Democratic votes that would make its passage more likely, but not certain.

Senate majority leader Howard Baker, a Tennessee Republican, announced the compromise with key Democrats and said the White House had agreed to go along with it.

They will support a proposal by Democrat Daniel Inouye for \$49.25 million in military aid and \$12.5 million in medical aid, a total of \$61.75 million.

Mr. Reagan asked Congress two weeks ago for \$92.5 million and said a vote was imperative before Sunday's presidential elections in El Salvador to demonstrate continued U.S. support for the government's fight against leftist rebels.



U.S. President Ronald Reagan welcomes French President Francois Mitterrand upon the latter's arrival in Washington Thursday (A.P. wirephoto)

Mitterrand calls for dialogue with Soviets

WASHINGTON (R)—French President Francois Mitterrand says the West must renew a dialogue with the Soviet Bloc and fight poverty in the Third World to preserve global peace.

He made the appeal to President Reagan and the U.S. Congress Thursday — and indirectly accused the United States of interference and manipulation in Central America.

"We must push back the frontiers of poverty, which remain in so many regions of the world the genuine roots of war," Mr. Mitterrand told Mr. Reagan in an exchange of statements at the White House.

He also told Mr. Reagan Western firmness and determination "must go together with keeping the dialogue open, particularly with the Eastern Bloc."

Mr. Reagan assured Mr. Mitterrand at a White House dinner Thursday night that he too wanted a better East-West dialogue. But he did not comment on the French leader's references to the Third World and Central America.

"We seek peace and security," Mr. Reagan said, "and to that end America also strives to achieve greater East-West dialogue."

"We will continue to work for a more stable relationship with the Soviet Union," Mr. Reagan said.

Mr. Mitterrand repeated his call for dialogue and Third World aid in a speech to Congress. He repeated, through in mild terms, his criticism of Mr. Reagan's policy against what he calls Marxist rebellions in Central America.

Mr. Mitterrand said the fighting in Central America was civil war, not rebellion, and that the people there must be allowed to seek greater justice, democracy and independence "without interference or manipulation."

The French president also told

Congress that Western leaders had done little to carry out their pledge at the Williamsburg Economic Summit last May to increase aid to underdeveloped countries.

"It serves no purpose to hamper away at building peace while we allow the underlying causes of war to prosper," he said.

"This is why developing a shared prosperity is an urgent priority."

Visit to Moscow

Mr. Mitterrand revealed Thursday that he plans to visit the Soviet Union for the first time as French president, probably this year.

In an interview in the magazine Paris Match, Mr. Mitterrand said that events in Afghanistan and Poland, which had held him back from visiting Moscow in the past, must still be condemned.

However, France had been so resolute, especially in pressing for a balance between opposing forces in Europe, that no one could accuse it of weakness or hesitation in standing up to the Soviet Union.

"France is working for peace and is highly conscious both of the position of the USSR in the world and of our historically friendly relations with the Russian people," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand visited Moscow in 1975 as president of the French Socialist Party.

The French government has spoken recently of a clear desire by the two countries to improve relations after they sank to a low point last April when France expelled 47 Soviet personnel.

Last week, in an article in Parade magazine, a U.S. Sunday newspaper supplement, Mr. Mitterrand called for a dialogue and better trade links between the Soviets and the Western allies.

Mondale accuses Hart of inconsistency, uncertainty

NEW YORK (R)—Walter Mondale has accused Gary Hart of "inconsistency and uncertainty" as the campaign heats up for New York's April 3 Democratic presidential primary election.

Mr. Mondale said Thursday night that shifts in Senator Hart's positions on nuclear arms control and moving Washington's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem revealed a pattern which would disturb American voters.

"There is a pattern of inconsistency and uncertainty and a record that's at war with itself," the former vice-president told reporters during a campaign stop at a bowling alley in the Queens district of New York.

"When you elect a president, you must have someone who is solid, sure-footed and has clarity in his positions," he said.

Sen. Hart Thursday told Jewish leaders here that as president he would move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem "as quickly as possible". Mr. Mondale also supports the embassy move, but believes it

should be subject to negotiations under the 1979 Camp David accords.

Both contenders acknowledge the high stakes in New York, which selects 285 delegates to the July convention which nominates the Democratic Party's presidential candidate.

And both expect the Reverend Jesse Jackson, the third Democratic candidate, to hurt them with a strong showing among blacks, who make up about 20 per cent of the party vote in New York.

"Jackson has unified the black community in New York," New York County Democratic Party Chairman Denny Farrell told Reuters. He said there would be record black turnout on April 3.

The winner of the nomination at the Democratic Party's national convention will need 1,967 delegates. Mr. Mondale now has slightly more than 630. Sen. Hart has a little over 350 and Rev. Jackson fewer than 80.



Egypt's national carrier goes dry

CAIRO (R)—Egyptair, the Egyptian flag carrier, has decided to stop serving alcoholic drink on all international and domestic flights, a company spokesman said Friday. The decision came into effect Thursday and is in line with Islamic legislation, he said. The airline carried 2.6 million passengers in 1983 and returned profits of 30 million Egyptian pounds (\$36 million), according to recent official figures. Egypt's southern ally, Sudan, conformed to strict Islamic Law late last year and banned drink throughout the country.

108-year-old man questioned after his wife was shot dead

KANSAS CITY (R)—A 108-year-old man was questioned by police Thursday after his 91-year-old wife was shot dead in their bedroom. Police said several shots were fired in the home of E. Franks Thursday morning and his wife of 65 years, Zepora, died after being hit in the face. The Kansas City District Attorney's office said no charges had been laid against Franks but a court had ordered him to have a psychiatric examination.

Homosexuals plan demonstration

SAN FRANCISCO (R)—Leaders of San Francisco's large and influential homosexual community said Thursday they would organise a major demonstration on the day before the Democratic Party opens its national convention here in July.

Activist Paul Boneberg forecast that tens of thousands of homosexuals and sympathisers would march to the convention centre. He told a news conference that the demonstrators would demand "a discussion of the oppression of lesbians and gay men" at the convention, whose main task is to choose a candidate to oppose President Reagan in the November election. San Francisco's homosexual community, estimated to number about 100,000 out of a population of 700,000, has won many political fights in recent years but was angered when California Governor George Deukmejian vetoed a so-called gay rights bill this month.

On Saturday Mr. Nakasone will meet Mr. Hu, who visited Japan late last year, and on Sunday he will have talks with China's leading statesman Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Apart from economic co-operation, both sides stress the importance of mutual understanding in international politics.

Sailor returns to hero's welcome

LONDON (R)—British yachtman John Ridgway and crewmate Andrew Briggs returned to Scotland Thursday claiming a record-breaking non-stop voyage round the world. Ridgway, 45, who rowed the Atlantic in 1966 and has since competed in many international yacht races, and Briggs, 24, reached a remote west highland loch to a noisy welcome of blaring hooters, shotguns and a cannon. In the 17 metres ketch English Rose VI, they covered some 23,000 miles in 194 days measured from land's end, at the tip of southwestern England. This would clip 92 days from the fastest time of 285 days 23 hours 57 minutes given in the Guinness Book of Records, set by Dutchman Pleun Van Der Lugt three years ago for a non-stop global voyage.

A local newspaper, the China Times, Friday quoted airport sources as saying that Mr. Liang was brought down from the plane he was yelling: "I want to kill Jiang Qing."

Jiang Qing, widow of Mao Tse-tung, was jailed for life by Peking as a member of China's so-called "gang of four" radical group.

The paper said Mr. Liang also handed Taiwanese investigators a list of demands, including granting him political asylum and the release of what he called political prisoners in China.

Taiwan, which still regards itself as the sole legitimate government of China, claims jurisdiction over all Chinese, whether they are citizens of Taiwan or residents of other countries.

Diana suffers from morning sickness

LEICESTER, England (R)—Britain's Princess Diana, expecting her second baby in September, admitted Thursday she was again suffering badly from morning sickness. "I have not felt well since day one," the 32-year-old princess, wife of Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, told women workers at a knitwear factory in this Midlands city. Later she joked: "I don't think am made for the production line, but it is all worth it in the end." She also suffered from morning sickness during her first pregnancy with Prince William, who will be two years old in June.

5 unwilling brides commit suicide

MANILA (R)—Five women jumped to their deaths from 200-metre cliff in the central Philippines to escape being married off to men they did not love. Tempo newspaper said Thursday it said the women, members of the Mangyan tribe in Mindoro or ental province, were to be married to men from a different tribe at the next full moon.

Australian state polls to be big test for Labour

SYDNEY (R)—New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, votes Saturday in an election which will provide the most important test for the national Labour government since it came to power a year ago.

Opinion polls indicate the state's ruling Labour Party, which has held power since 1976, is likely to win but with its large majority in the 99-seat lower house halved.

State Premier Neville Wran led Labour to a stunning victory in the last state elections in 1981, taking a record 69 seats against 27 for the opposition Liberal and National Parties.

Mr. Wran called the election six months early over constant opposition claims of police and judicial corruption which he said made effective government impossible.

However, late campaigning has focused more on bread-

and-butter issues such as taxes and jobs.

The opposition coalition needs a large swing of 11 per cent to win power, and one of its leaders admitted this week that such a result would need a rare miracle.

Mr. Wran, a tough, experienced politician with three successful election campaigns behind him, has involved Prime Minister Bob Hawke heavily in his electioneering hoping that Mr. Hawke's unprecedented popularity will help at the polls.

The latest Morgan Gallup poll, published this week, put Mr. Hawke's popularity rating at a record 74 per cent with more than 50 per cent of opposition voters approving of the way he handled his job.

Labour holds office in four of the six Australian states, of which New South Wales, with a population of five million, is the most important.

S. Africa, Botswana hold talks

CAPE TOWN (R)—South Africa and Botswana Thursday emerged from high-level talks here saying progress had been made amid press speculation South Africa might sign an agreement with another of its black African neighbours.

However, a Botswana government spokesman said in Gaborone the talks were "purely economic" and had nothing to do with a possible signing of a non-aggression pact such as the one South Africa signed with Mozambique last week.

The talks, which ended this afternoon, were led by South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha and Botswana's Minister of External Affairs Archie Mogwe. They were accompanied by other ministers as well as defence and security officials.

A brief joint statement said: "Progress has been made and the two delegations formulated a proposal which will be submitted to the two governments for consideration."

From Gaborone Foreign Affairs Minister Permanent Secretary Ernest Mphofu told Reuters: "Our delegation would not go all the way to Cape Town to discuss something we will not do."

"Our government has made clear its stand on the issue," he said.

UNESCO says no key documents destroyed

PARIS (R)—UNESCO officials said Thursday that the fire which badly damaged their headquarters in Paris did not destroy any documents required for a U.S. investigation into the organisation's affairs.

"The budget, staff and financial administration documents have not been affected by the fire," said a spokesman for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

He said these were the documents of primary interest to investigators from the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), who plan to look into UNESCO's affairs.

The probe on behalf of the U.S. Congress follows a decision by the Reagan administration to pull out

of UNESCO at the end of the year because of alleged mismanagement and anti-Western bias.

The fire swept through five floors in the southern wing of the futuristic tri-cornered building in Western Paris Wednesday night. Investigators said it appeared to be a deliberate attempt to destroy the whole building.

Inflammable liquid had been splashed around outside walls. After 200 firemen had brought the main blaze under control, a number of small fires were found smouldering in other parts of the building, investigators said.

The UNESCO spokesman said the budget, personnel and financial administration documents were kept either in another building or in another part of the

same building. Assistant Director General Henri Lopes said: "What I can say is that the general accounting office people who are to come will have all the documents for their work."

The UNESCO spokesman said the worst affected area was the centre for incoming and outgoing mail on the first floor where the fire broke out. It was almost completely destroyed, he said.

Some documents belonging to the education and translation services were also burned but copies were available elsewhere, the spokesman said.

"None of the documents affected either by fire or by water can be remotely construed as classified in the sense of being confidential," he said.

U.S. aircraft carrier continues exercises after collision

SEOUL (R)—The 80,000-ton U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk resumed its role in joint military exercises off South Korea Friday after Wednesday night's collision with a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine.

A Seventh Fleet spokesman said the carrier, which suffered only minor damage, was now in the Yellow Sea between South Korea and China.

The damaged Soviet Victor-One class submarine was reported to be sailing north at a slow three knots towards the Soviet far east base of Vladivostok.

Pentagon Spokesman Michael Burch said Thursday that the Soviet submarine had a crease in its outer metal casing between mid-section and stern, but there was no suggestion of a nuclear leak.

The United States is considering protesting to the Soviet Union over the collision under a 1972 U.S.-Soviet pact that covers such incidents at sea.

U.S. officials blamed the inci-

dent on the submarine, which had been shadowing the carrier during joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

Captain Dave Rogers told a press conference aboard the Kitty Hawk Thursday that the submarine had shadowed his vessel constantly for two days before the collision occurred in darkness 150 miles off the east coast of South Korea.

Capt. Rogers said the missile-armed submarine was travelling without navigation lights at night in violation of international sea rules.

He said he was on the bridge watching a radar screen when the giant vessel shuddered violently and he saw the form of a submarine moving away.

Capt. Rogers explained that the carrier probably failed to spot the submarine because, when submerged, it would not show up on radar and the carrier did not carry sonar anti-submarine detection devices.

This role was carried out by helicopters and anti-submarine planes from the carrier along with escorting destroyers, he said.

But the carrier had just completed flight operations and the nearest escort was two miles away, out of sonar range, when the collision took place, he said.

In Washington, Pentagon officials Friday said collisions between U.S. and Soviet warships are bound to increase as the two superpowers build up their fleets.

They said bigger fleets called for more ocean exercises and, as both sides shadowed each other's ships during war games, there was a growing risk of collisions.

The submarine had trailed the Kitty Hawk for two days before the collision off the east coast of South Korea. The carrier was one of 25 U.S. warships taking part in "team Spirit '84" exercises involving 200,000 U.S. and South Korean forces.

Four months earlier, another Soviet Victor-class submarine was

damaged when its propellers apparently got caught sonar tracking gear trailed by a U.S. frigate off South Carolina.

The disabled submarine was towed to Cuba by a Soviet tug for repairs.

Last November, the U.S. destroyer Fife and a Soviet guided missile frigate brushed against each other in the Arabian Sea.

U.S. officials said incidents at sea were still uncommon but, with the U.S. and Soviet navies in the midst of massive shipbuilding programmes and eavesdropping closely on each other's exercises, this was not likely to continue.

They said it was standard navy practice to shadow Soviet manoeuvres as part of routine sea training and the Soviet Navy did the same.

Some collisions and near-misses were caused by poor seamanship but the officials attributed others to over-zealous captains.

They pointed out that the 1972 U.S.-Soviet incidents-at-sea agree-

ement provided a channel of communication to make the seas safer for each country's fleet.

The pact was prompted by an increasing number of naval incidents in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Officials said it had worked well and the number of incidents had fallen in recent years.

The agreement established a formal line of communication for U.S. Navy officials to complain to the Soviet Navy. While the Soviet Union often did not reply, it usually accommodated U.S. concerns, defence officials said.

In 1982, U.S. Navy officials called in Soviet attaches in Washington seven times to complain about Soviet conduct at sea, while U.S. attaches in Moscow were called to the Foreign Ministry there eight times. Figures for 1983 were not available.

The U.S. Navy is investigating the collision of the Kitty Hawk and the Soviet submarine to decide whether to lodge a complaint.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "لا إله إلا الله"